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THE GUARDIAN

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Defence and law suffer as health escapes cuts

Repairs cutback leaked by Treasury on 'high spending'

By John Carvel, Local Government Correspondent

THE TREASURY was responsible yesterday for accidentally leaking the Department of the Environment's proposals for means-testing home improvement grants.

It did so on the mistaken assumption that a DOE consultation document on the subject had already been published.

The public spending white paper makes it clear that Ministers intend to stop the middle classes' millions of pounds in grants to carry out repairs which they could afford to pay for themselves.

The white paper says, incorrectly: "The Government has carried out a review of improvement policy and has recently issued a consultation document outlining its proposals for the development of the system."

The intention is that help should be better targeted towards those who are unable to afford the cost of necessary repairs and improvements.

The DOE made it clear yesterday that the Treasury had been told about its mistake and failed to correct it. The consultation paper would appear shortly, although not within the next fortnight.

Government spending on home improvement grants rocketed after the rate was increased to 90 per cent in the 1982 budget and ministers urged councils to provide the scheme as a way of tackling the deprivation of private sector housing stock.

Spending increased from £191 million in 1981/82 to more than £900 million in 1983/84. Recently, however, the rate of grant has been cut to 50 per cent by the local authorities' housing programme have led to a freeze on new grant applications in most areas.

The white paper says that spending on the scheme is expected to fall back towards the levels which prevailed before the recent surge in grant-aided activity.

The DOE said this did not mean that the scheme would be cut. The 1983/84 figure of £197 million in the coming year. Councils had discretion as to how they distributed their budgets. Spending might be as much as £700 million or as little as £400 million.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities said it was understandable for the Treasury to have jumped the gun in a publication of the scheme since they were responsible for the scheme in the first place.

Pain and hope as strike colliery restarts

By Peter Hetherington, Northern Correspondent

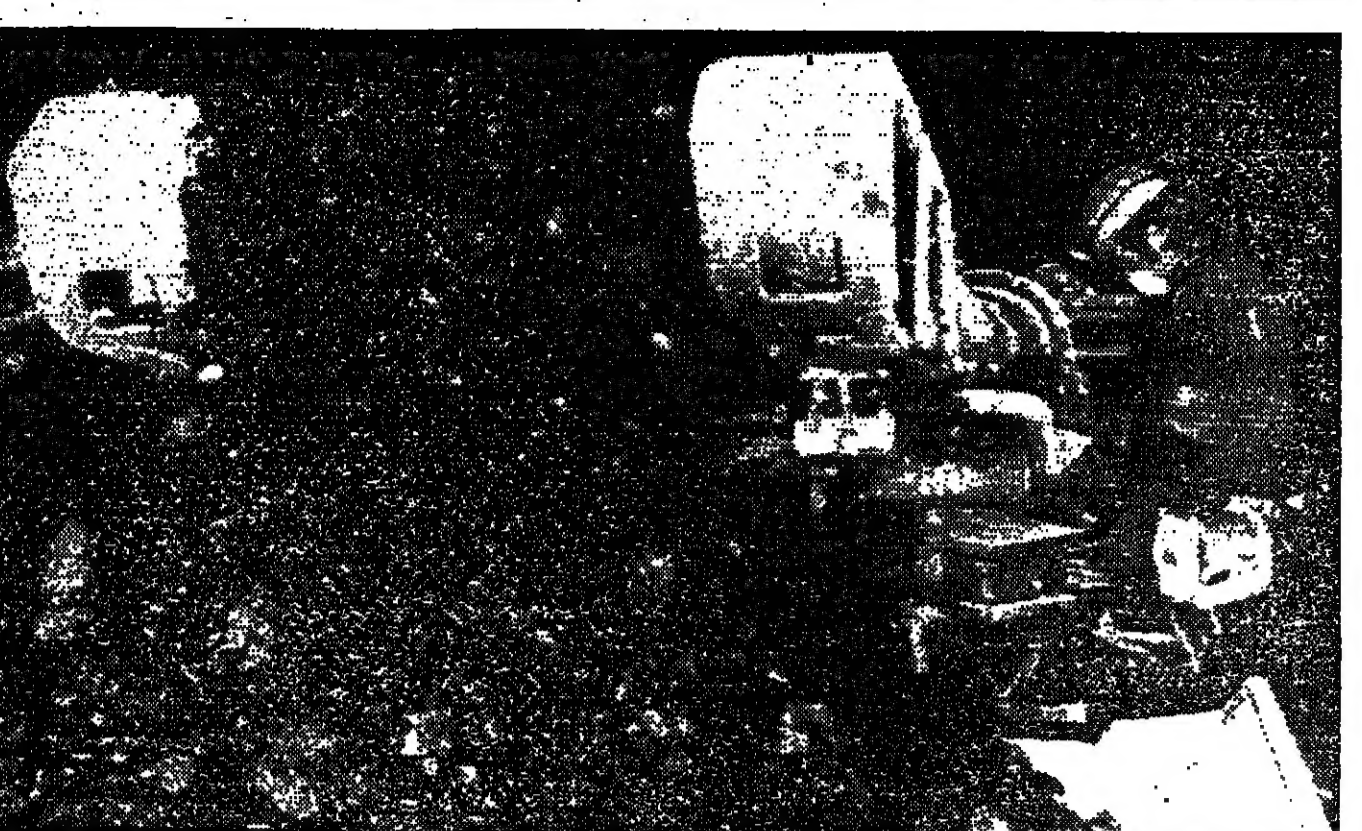
LATE YESTERDAY morning, the huge coal-cutting machine in the north main seam reared into action after almost 11 months and Ellington Colliery, one of Britain's largest pits, began the slow, painful struggle towards regular production.

The air is heavy six miles out into the North Sea — 250 feet below the seabed —

NUM tries to stop breakdown and PM challenges Scargill, back page; MacGregor's anger, page 2; Leader comment, page 10; Getting the miners to go back, page 19

as Tom, a pitman for 28 years, presses the button to restart the equipment and send the first five tonnes onto a shuttle hopper, then a conveyor and ultimately to the surface on the Northumberland coast.

Tom, aged 43, a power loader and the key under-ground operative, is cautious. "Well, it's a start — no problems here at least." On the surface things are different.



DIGGING DEEP: a coal cutting machine at work at Ellington Colliery, Northumberland, where coal was produced for the first time in almost eleven months yesterday

He was one of 74 workers to break the strike at Ellington. Early in November, after the collapse of peace talks between union and coal board, now almost half the 2,323 miners — 30 new faces yesterday — have returned.

"It was like committing treason going back," says Tom, who still admits to pangs of conscience. "The union is there to protect you — it's part of your life — and I'm with it in the fight to protect jobs. But it's the way it's gone about it. There's something not quite right."

The coal keeps rolling and George, aged 44, another member of the six-man face team, is equally apprehensive, almost apologetic.

"There didn't seem to be any hope," he explains. "It was a question of necessity. I've got huge debts that will take years to clear and there's so many in the same boat. A lad last night was telling me he had to return because the building society was coming to repossess his house."

Most face workers have their own individual horror stories to recount — none more than Ray Simm, aged 38, a father of five children, who says his wife left him last May as the debts mounted. "I've sold my pigeons, left and all, just to live — everything had to go."

He hopes for reconciliation, (twenty-eight other marriages have collapsed locally during the dispute, he says).

Jack Tabby, the Ellington manager, says he is deeply concerned about the welfare of his men and recognises the personal difficulties faced by many. "Our biggest problem is to get the workforce back to what it used to be. It is going to be a very difficult period and our aim will be to provide strong leadership."

But he has other problems. The 47-week strike has taken its toll on a pit, labelled the world's biggest undersea colliery and potentially Britain's most profitable.

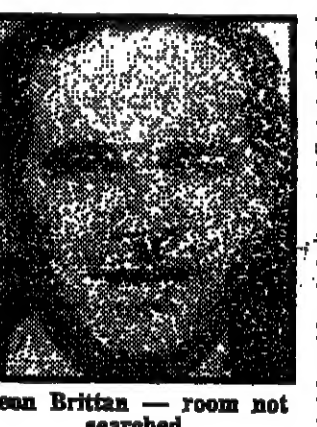
Five of the 13 production units — small faces mined by a machine which rips into the face, instead of slicing along it in the traditional mining method — have been "lost" for the time being because of water penetration and geological pressure.

Turn to back page, col 5

Brittan sets up team to foil bombers

By James Naughtie, Political Correspondent

A committee of senior police officers, security officials and representatives of the political parties is to draw up plans to counter terrorist attacks at party conferences.



Leon Brittan — room not searched

Announcing the measure yesterday, Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, said the police were not responsible for security lapses leading to the Brighton bombing on October 5 last year — but he disclosed that his own suite in the Grand Hotel had not been searched before the explosion.

He told the Commons that the team under the chairmanship of Sir Lawrence Byford, Chief Inspector of Constabulary, would help significantly to provide "a firm framework". But he was accused by Mr Gerald Kaufman, the Shadow Home Secretary, of having made an "inadequate and complacent" statement.

He complained that the Government refused to allow senior opposition figures in all parties to see the report on the Brighton bombing prepared by Mr John Hoddinott.

tained between 20 and 30lbs of explosives and it had been placed behind a bath panel in Room 629. It was almost certainly detonated by a long-delay timer, he said. A person who stayed in the room about three weeks before the explosion had given a false address.

The most startling information revealed by the Home Secretary was in answer to Mr Alex Carlile, the Liberal home affairs spokesman, when he agreed that of the rooms on the first floor which had been searched before the conference, his own had been omitted. Mr Brittan is one of the most closely guarded ministers in the Government.

Although he said the police were not to be criticised for not discovering the bomb, many MPs last night were expressing surprise at the failure to search the hotel adequately. Mr Brittan said the failure was because of the absence of a clear allocation of responsibility within the Sussex police.

He then announced the establishment of a permanent working group to co-ordinate police activities with the Home Office and including representatives from MI5 and the army.

Mr Brittan said that central arrangements for assessing terrorist intentions set up after the bombing had already proved of value.

The essence of Mr Hoddinott's report as revealed by the Home Secretary, was the need for better co-ordination between the Metropolitan Police special branch, other security authorities and local police forces, which would continue to carry much of the responsibility for specific counter measures against terrorist attacks.

However, he made no secret of the Government's view that there was a limit to the security arrangements which were acceptable in a democratic society.

He said of Mr Hoddinott's report: "He did not criticise the police for failing to control and search each person entering the hotel during the period of the conference. He concluded that the hotel and those wishing to use it would not have accepted such an arrangement and that, given the assumption of free access to the hotel, the numbers involved would, anyway, have made it impracticable."

Divorce defeat

By Marilyn Halsall, Churches Correspondent

Proposals for the marriage of divorced people in Church of England churches were abandoned yesterday by the bishops who devised them.

The House of Bishops of the General Synod of the Church decided not to bring back to the synod for further consideration a procedure approved by the synod but subsequently rejected in 31 of the 44 dioceses.

The synod will decide its next move in London next month but yesterday's decision will encourage 10 bishops to press for all marriages involving divorced people to take place in register offices with optional services of blessing made available by the church.

The procedure cancelled yesterday provided for parish priests to interview couples and submit reports to bishops, who would decide whether church weddings should be allowed.

European banks restrain dollar

By Peter Rodgers, City Editor

The Bank of England yesterday joined with other European central banks in a co-ordinated move to sell dollars, which succeeded in halting a new surge in the US currency on the foreign exchanges. Sterling recovered from \$1.150 to \$1.13 and closed at \$1.1243, a tenth of a cent down on the night before.

Other countries confirmed publicly that they had intervened, but as many as nine are believed to have been involved, including the West German Bundesbank and the Banque de France.

It was the first fruit of last week's agreement of the big five industrial nations, including Britain's Mr Nigel Lawson, to intervene together against the dollar.

The trigger is thought to have been a rise in the dollar against the German mark to DM3.165, and it was immediately driven back 2.5 pence.

Financial Notebook, page 20; Markets, page 22

group, Japan, is not thought to have been involved.

Dealers said that the effectiveness of the raid on the dollar was due more to the amount of speculation than to the amount spent.

The action began shortly before 10 am, in response to a new surge in the dollar in the foreign exchange market, as President Reagan forecast on Monday, showed continued strong growth in the US economy.

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Jury vetting protests

By Richard Norton-Taylor and Colin Brown

Controversy over jury-vetting in the Ponting secrets case broke out in the Commons yesterday when Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney-General, was pressed by Liberal and Labour MPs to explain why part of the trial will be held in camera.

He appeared to admit that the Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Parliant, page 4

NEWS IN BRIEF

MoD man gaoled

A FORMER senior civil servant with the Ministry of Defence was gaoled for six months yesterday for selling confidential information to the Observer. Back page; See states Observer case, page 2.

Embryo controls

RESEARCH on human embryos is to be controlled by a voluntary licensing authority until the Government introduces legislation. Page 4.

BR 'truce'

BRITISH Rail yesterday stood back from confrontation with its main unions over their blacking of coal movements. Page 2.

Belize gesture

GUATEMALA has offered concessions in an attempt to settle its territorial dispute with Belize, the former British colony. Page 5.

Quaker defeat

THE Quakers yesterday lost the first round of their legal battle to withhold tax contributions towards military spending. Page 4.

Market moves

POUND down .0010 to \$1.1243; FT index up 20.6 to 1024.5; Dow Jones down 1.87 to 1259.50. Markets, page 22.

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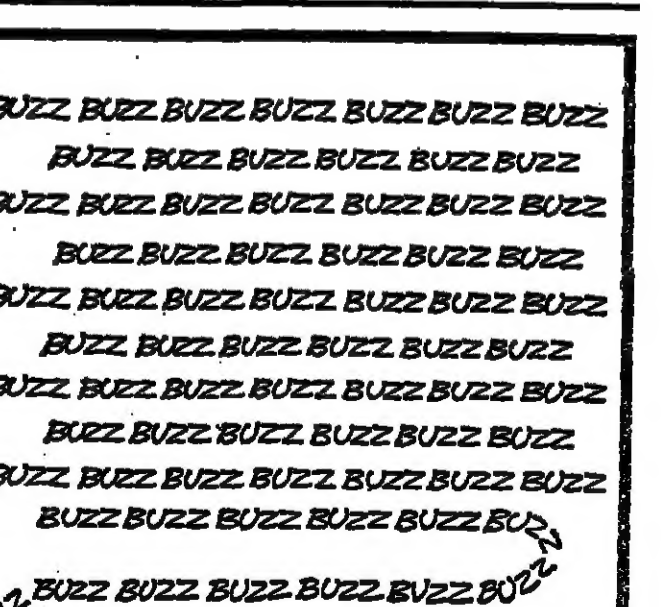
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The Guardian

A continuing disagreement involving the AGA composing chapels in London last night caused further loss of early edition copies of yesterday's Guardian. We apologise to readers in those areas and also to some readers in later areas who suffered from knock-on effects of the problem.

The weather

WINTERY showers, bright intervals. Details, back page.



Join the women who are buzzing with ideas

If you want a fuller life for yourself and the community you live in, then come along and meet the women who are devoted to just that—in the Townswomen's Guilds.

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National Union of Townswomen's Guilds, Dept. G, FREEPOST, Birmingham B15 1BR

Low profile on cards for Queen

From Derek Brown in Brussels

For the first time since the dawn of postal history, the reigning British monarch's head would be omitted from a EEC harmonised stamp, which is now under serious consideration.

The idea comes not from some crazed continental Europhile, but from Mrs Thatcher's own representative on the People's Europe Committee, set up last summer to promote European consciousness.

Mr David Williamson, the Prime Minister's nominee from her Downing Street staff, has designed the putative stamp himself. It features a map of

the Community, set left, with the value printed on the right-hand side in Euro-Euro currency units — which are much heard of but never seen.

The value in this money would be translated on every stamp into the equivalent in a national currency. The stamps would be usable throughout the Community.

This radical notion would be all but revolutionary in Britain, for the stamps, if accepted, would be the first used in this country without the profile of the monarch. The Queen's head and the heads of her ancestors have traditionally been substituted for the more common international practice of printing the issuing country's name.

Mr Williamson's idea one of the more imaginative to have surfaced from the People's Europe Committee, is under consideration. At least one less adventurous counter-proposal has emerged: to overprint EU values on existing national designs.

The committee, which has a widening brief to examine issues ranging from a common flag to streamline customs procedures, has been asked by the 10 national governments to present an interim report to the next EEC summit in Brussels in March. The final report will go to the next-but-one summit, in Milan in June.

Mr Williamson is also proposing for the benefit of the community's citizens a hefty rise in the allowance of duty-free goods they are allowed to import, from 45 Ecu currently £27 to 350 Ecu (about £210).

The argument goes it will also ease the burden on customs men. Instead of systematic searches to wrinkle goods out of travellers' luggage, frontier checks could be reduced to spot checks for drugs or other contraband in quantity.

Greater freedom of movement for citizens and their goods is now the main thrust of British policy in the EEC. Mrs Thatcher is deeply anxious to make the Common Market meaningful, even to the extent of allowing it to put its stamp on the British way of postage.

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Paper watches its own trial

Police face leaner years

By William Dean

Police officers in the United States are facing a leaner year than ever before, according to a report by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The report, which is the first of its kind, shows that the number of police officers in the United States is expected to decline by 10 percent over the next five years. This is due to a combination of factors, including a decline in the number of new recruits, a rise in the number of officers who are retiring, and a decline in the number of officers who are being promoted. The report also shows that the number of police officers who are being laid off is expected to increase by 20 percent over the next five years. This is due to a decline in the number of police officers who are being hired, a rise in the number of officers who are being laid off, and a decline in the number of officers who are being promoted. The report also shows that the number of police officers who are being laid off is expected to increase by 20 percent over the next five years. This is due to a decline in the number of police officers who are being hired, a rise in the number of officers who are being laid off, and a decline in the number of officers who are being promoted.

Profit can will worry

Aid and trade

By John Hooper and Michael Simmons

THE WHITE HOUSE has been told that the new administration will need to be ready to face a "profit can will worry" in the coming years. The report, which is the first of its kind, shows that the number of profit can will worry is expected to increase by 20 percent over the next five years. This is due to a combination of factors, including a decline in the number of new recruits, a rise in the number of officers who are retiring, and a decline in the number of officers who are being promoted. The report also shows that the number of profit can will worry is expected to increase by 20 percent over the next five years. This is due to a decline in the number of profit can will worry who are being hired, a rise in the number of officers who are being laid off, and a decline in the number of officers who are being promoted.

may not be able to hold to its present job security agreement.

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1990

No investment concession in Treasury's strict tax-cut line

By Christopher Hume
Economics Editor

THE GOVERNMENT'S public spending plans for the three years from 1985-86 to 1987-88 are a direct result of the Treasury's strict tax-cut line. They offer no concessions to the Tory backbench dissidents who have been pressing for more investment spending.

Public investment, including construction and infrastructure, is planned to drop even in cash terms between now and 1987-88. Defence spending and law and order, until now government favourites, also come under the axe either next year or in subsequent years with the aim of making room for tax cuts within declining targets for borrowing.

The long build-up in defence spending, which is set to increase in real terms by a slight 0.2 per cent next year, to show nearly 30 per cent real growth over 1979-80 comes to an end in 1986-87. Then a 1.1 per cent real cut is forecast succeeded by another of 1.6 per cent in 1987-88.

Only four main programmes are not planned to suffer cuts in real terms between this year and 1987-88, and even these increases are unlikely to be enough to maintain the real value of services.

Health and Personal Social Services sees an increase of 2.1 per cent over the planning period compared to the estimated spending for this financial year with gross current National Health Service spending rising by 16 per cent in 1986-87 and 18 per cent in real terms over the three years.

This increase is probably not enough to keep pace with pressures on the NHS. The cabinet think tank reported in 1983 that NHS spending needed to rise by 1 per cent.

Leader comment, page 10

to 1.4 per cent a year "to meet the pressures exerted by demographic change and medical advances."

Social security's real growth over the planning period is put at 3.5 per cent, an increase which reflects some allowance for factors in an ageing population.

Two relatively small programmes show increases—a rise of 10.7 per cent for common services such as the maintenance of ministry buildings and 0.9 per cent for Northern Ireland.

Every other main programme falls in real terms, ranging from 1.1 per cent for overseas aid to 57 per cent for industry, energy, trade and employment. Nationalised industries will be expected to meet all of their own investment needs and repay money to the Exchequer.

The projected real fall in total public sector capital spending of 12.4 per cent between this year and 1987-88, is distorted by the inclusion of some defence spending which Treasury officials admitted yesterday was out of line with United Nations accounting conventions. On normal international definitions, the fall has been and will be greater.

For some programmes the comparison of the current year with 1987-88 is affected by this year's high public spending caused by the miners' strike. The planning total is expected to drop by 1.3 per cent next year after allowing for a 4.1 per cent rise in prices.

Thereafter, the planning total remains fairly steady after allowing for assumed rises in general prices of 4 per cent in 1986-87 and 3.1 per cent in 1987-88.

The Treasury claims that the large contingency reserves, new accounting procedures and the checks of local authority spending will enable it to meet its targets.

City analysts, however, question several Treasury assumptions, notably that public sector pay will be able to be kept below the rate of increase in the rest of the economy.

Next year nationalised industries are expected to reduce their external financing to £1.3 billion from £3.2 billion this year.

If these targets are met, it seems certain that utilities such as gas, electricity and water will be forced to raise their prices more quickly than inflation in an attempt to maximise revenue.

The white paper shows that the Government has not succeeded in meeting its targets in the past. Between 1980-1 and 1984-5, the actual result, on average, exceeded plans of the immediately preceding year by 0.73 per cent.

This year's overrun is already estimated to be 1.34 per cent on the planning total announced last February. But that estimate was based on the miners' strike ending last month. Public spending cost of the dispute this year is put at £1.5 billion, which implies that the effect on public spending if it lasts to the end of the financial year will be at least £2 billion.

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Health and Personal Social Services sees an increase of 2.1 per cent over the planning period compared to the estimated spending for this financial year with gross current National Health Service spending rising by 16 per cent in 1986-87 and 18 per cent in real terms over the three years.

This increase is probably not enough to keep pace with pressures on the NHS. The cabinet think tank reported in 1983 that NHS spending needed to rise by 1 per cent.

Leader comment, page 10

to 1.4 per cent a year "to meet the pressures exerted by demographic change and medical advances."

Social security's real growth over the planning period is put at 3.5 per cent, an increase which reflects some allowance for factors in an ageing population.

Two relatively small programmes show increases—a rise of 10.7 per cent for common services such as the maintenance of ministry buildings and 0.9 per cent for Northern Ireland.

Every other main programme falls in real terms, ranging from 1.1 per cent for overseas aid to 57 per cent for industry, energy, trade and employment. Nationalised industries will be expected to meet all of their own investment needs and repay money to the Exchequer.

The projected real fall in total public sector capital spending of 12.4 per cent between this year and 1987-88, is distorted by the inclusion of some defence spending which Treasury officials admitted yesterday was out of line with United Nations accounting conventions. On normal international definitions, the fall has been and will be greater.

For some programmes the comparison of the current year with 1987-88 is affected by this year's high public spending caused by the miners' strike. The planning total is expected to drop by 1.3 per cent next year after allowing for a 4.1 per cent rise in prices.

Thereafter, the planning total remains fairly steady after allowing for assumed rises in general prices of 4 per cent in 1986-87 and 3.1 per cent in 1987-88.

The Treasury claims that the large contingency reserves, new accounting procedures and the checks of local authority spending will enable it to meet its targets.

City analysts, however, question several Treasury assumptions, notably that public sector pay will be able to be kept below the rate of increase in the rest of the economy.

Next year nationalised industries are expected to reduce their external financing to £1.3 billion from £3.2 billion this year.

Law and order

Police face leaner years

By Malcolm Dean

SPENDING on the police service will be cut by 3 per cent in real terms next year—the first planned cut since Mrs Thatcher won the 1979 election.

The white paper gives a 1.5 per cent increase (£44 million) in 1985-86 against a projected 4.5 per cent rise in costs.

Previous increases in the Thatcher years have been—1980/81, £284 million; 1981/82, £370 million; 1982/83, £226 million; 1983/84, £212 million; and in 1984/85, £225 million.

Police strength has increased by 9,000 since the 1979 election and in March 1984 stood at 121,000—an increase of 8 per cent.

The number of police civilian employees, which includes traffic wardens and cadets, has gone up by 1,100 since 1979 to 43,764.

Expenditure on the police for 1985/86 is estimated in the white paper to be £2,613 million—well over half the total Home Office budget.

The prison service is the next biggest service spending some £222 million next year. It will suffer a small cut in real terms with its expenditure increasing by 4.4 per cent (£33 million) with costs expected to rise by 4.5 per cent.

Within the penal budget the white paper shows a 51 million increase for probation, to £25 million in 1985/86. The number of probation officers has increased by 14 per cent since 1979 to 5,440.

The total Home Office budget at £4,546 million will be cut by almost 3 per cent next year. Its increase of 7.7 per cent (£374 million), against a 4.5 per cent cost increase compares with these previous 1980/81 increases: £533 million; 1981/82, £516 million; 1982/83, £248 million; 1983/84, £374 million; 1984/85, £345 million.

Heseltine puts military on cash plateau

Defence

By David Fairhall, Defence Correspondent

AFTER a long period of rapid growth to meet a Nato target and pay for the Falklands war, Britain's defence budget will decline slightly in 1986-87 and again in 1987-88.

Figures in the white paper show that after next year the cash spent on defence, though still rising, will not keep pace with the forecast rate of inflation. Even if the Falklands cost is excluded—on the grounds that it was inflated by war losses and will settle down once the new garrison airport is built—the defence budget still shows a slight decline in real terms after next year.

But the Defence Secretary, Mr. Michael Heseltine, suggested yesterday that the change was so marginal as to be insignificant. In broad terms, he said, defence spending was reaching a plateau.

The cash figure for next year is £18,060 million (including £552 million for the Falklands), which is 4.7 per cent higher than the 1984-85 figure of £17,249 million (including £584 million for the Falklands).

In 1986-87 the planned figure is £18,580 million (Falklands £460 million), an increase of 2.8 per cent which does not cover the forecast 4 per cent inflation. The figure for 1987-88 is £18,870 million.

(Falklands £300 million), a 1.7 per cent rise which again does not cover an expected 3.25 inflation.

Mr. Heseltine said that the precise figures would be subject to review and his budget, like that of other departments, would in future be expressed in cash terms. From now on, the emphasis would be on competitive efficiency in defence contracts and military value for money.

But for the Nato commitment to increase military expenditure by 3 per cent a year in real terms—a commitment that has been abandoned from next year—and the additional costs of the Falklands, the Treasury would almost certainly have demanded cuts in Mr. Heseltine's budget long ago.

Spending has increased by a fifth in real terms since the Conservatives came to power and the armed forces are doing extremely well in terms of new equipment.

Asked yesterday how he would cope with the £10 billion Trident nuclear weapons programme in a budget that was no longer growing, Mr. Heseltine said he had looked at the effect of flattening the peak expenditure in a few years time, but this was not worthwhile.

That the Defence Ministry now talked about Trident as a 20 year programme rather than one spread over 18 years, or only 15 years as it was originally—was not a sign of impending financial crisis.

PUBLIC SPENDING IN REAL TERMS *

	increase between 1979/80 and 1985/86	79-80 outturn	80-81 outturn	81-82 outturn	82-83 outturn	83-84 outturn	84-85 est. outturn	85-86 plans	86-87 plans	87-88 plans
+23 Defence		13,405	13,684	14,038	15,044	15,483	16,467	16,499	16,310	16,050
-17.2 Overseas aid		2,949	1,908	1,792	2,221	2,806	2,380	2,403	2,230	2,360
+28 Agriculture		1,461	1,647	1,538	1,939	2,087	2,017	1,873	1,640	1,600
-26 Industry, energy, trade and employment		5,822	6,308	7,508	6,043	5,886	6,556	4,338	3,270	2,940
-1 Arts and libraries		587	594	583	624	640	636	581	630	620
-12 Transport		4,761	4,887	4,763	4,577	4,352	4,554	4,142	4,250	4,080
-68 Housing		6,569	5,497	3,488	2,780	3,053	2,979	2,092	2,240	2,250
-18 Other environmental services		3,833	3,780	3,461	3,679	3,739	3,592	3,133	3,140	2,990
+27 Law and order		3,746	3,888	4,177	4,367	4,624	4,837	4,767	4,900	4,770
+4 Education and science		12,994	13,349	13,186	13,313	13,398	13,125	12,422	12,320	12,110
+16.5 Health and social services		12,933	13,921	14,174	14,434	14,755	15,087	15,065	15,290	15,410
+39 Social security		28,204	28,713	31,833	33,884	35,217	36,221	36,638	36,800	37,500
+2 Other public services		1,736	1,797	1,779	1,771	1,670	1,772	1,774	1,750	1,710
-31 Common services		1,462	1,345	1,619	1,626	873	948	988	990	1,050
-1 Scotland		6,613	6,585	6,506	6,516	6,704	6,817	6,540	6,450	6,230
-2.5 Wales		2,589	2,578	2,468	2,495	2,597	2,516	2,500	2,530	2,490
+5.5 Northern Ireland		3,615	3,529	3,567	3,646	3,749	3,875	3,886	3,910	3,910
Local authority current expenditure not allocated to programmes (England)								543		
ADJUSTMENTS										
Special sale of assets		-1,451	-436	88	-510	-1,142	-1,908	-2,284	-1,980	-1,910
Reserve								2,741	3,510	4,260
General allowance for shortfall								-477		
+8 PLANNING TOTAL (everything except interest on debt)		111,509	113,513	116,566	118,457	120,298	122,301	120,672	120,120	120,370

* After adjusting for inflation across the economy as measured by the Gross Domestic Product deflator.

Housing

New 4pc reduction in face of Tory revolt

By John Carvel, Local Government correspondent

THE Government is planning further cuts in the public housing investment programme, although it has not yet quelled the revolt among Tory backbenchers about the last batch of cuts announced before Christmas.

The white paper shows that gross capital expenditure on housing by local authorities, housing associations and new towns is planned to total £2,150 million in 1987/88. This is a cut of 10 per cent in real terms on the plan for the coming year.

Although this reduction is modest compared with the swingeing reductions which have cut the public housing investment programme by 70 per cent since the Conservatives took office, it is bound to deepen the despondency of the construction industry and those Tory MPs who believe that unemployment could be tackled by building more homes.

They had been told that the cut in next year's programme, which the construction industry claims will cost more than 300,000 jobs, was partly due to the Treasury's need to claw back past overspending.

If this had been true, they could reasonably have expected some increase in the programme in the following two years.

The white paper also includes a clear acknowledgment by the Government of the scale of the problem of council house deficits.

It estimates that it will cost £1.5 billion to repair or replace 140,000 homes built by the public sector before 1980 using prefabricated reinforced concrete components, although it comments that a substantial number will not need work done for 20 years or more. It also notes problems with 140,000 other dwellings built using large-panel construction.

The Government is planning big cuts in local authorities' current expenditure on services and jobs. Over the next three years councils are expected to make real terms cuts of more than 7 per cent.

Although such plans have not been realised in the past because of local authority overspending, the Government's new controls over rates in England and rents in Scotland and Wales are seen to believe that this time the plans can be enforced.

The white paper includes the first fruits of the Whitehall review of the urban programme designed to give special help to hard-pressed city areas. This has been cut by about a fifth in future years, compared with previous plans, so that it will be approximately frozen in cash terms at the 1984-5 level.

The Government explains that the purpose of the urban programme is not to halt long-term structural decline in the economies of the inner cities, "nor would that be possible or desirable." The aim is rather "to assist them to come to terms with the effects of change."

The white paper hints at changes expected in March to extend the Merseyside task force approach into other urban partnership authorities. It says steps will be taken in the coming year to "strengthen the management of the programme, to concentrate its activities in the areas of greatest need, and to improve monitoring of output."

Profit calculations will worry exporters

Aid and trade

By John Hooper and Michael Simmons

THE WHITE paper suggests that the Treasury is taking an extraordinarily optimistic view of the amount that will be needed to help finance British exports.

It is envisaged that the figure will drop by more than half next year and before 1987-88 the government will actually be making a profit out of its activities in this area—something which has never happened before and which trade experts dismiss as a practical impossibility.

The money saved will not be diverted elsewhere as no prospect is offered of any real increase in the net aid programme. Preference will be given to Commonwealth and "friendly" countries, and remaining dependencies.

The government's system of export aid encourages banks to lend money at bargain rates to foreign companies to help them buy British products, by making up the difference between the rate of interest which the bank charges to the foreign firm and the going rate on the open market.

This practice, known as interest support, is common to all developed nations. To ensure that some do not gain an unfair edge over their competitors by providing bigger interest rate subsidies, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development fixes a minimum rate for these loans. This rate, known as the consensus rate, varies according to the period of the loan and the type of country to which the loan is made.

According to the white paper, the Treasury's estimate of the amount that will be needed to spend £441 million during the current financial year on

Fares

40 pc loss likely for transport

By John Carvel

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday gave the first indication of its plans to cut passenger transport subsidies by at least 40 per cent in the metropolitan areas after the abolition of their county councils in April 1986.

The result will be steep increases in fares, and cuts in municipal services and jobs in areas where present Labour councils have prided themselves on the popularity of their public transport systems, which are also under threat from the forthcoming buses bill.

Ministers retain for three years to retain statutory control over the budgets of joint boards which will inherit responsibility for public transport in Greater Manchester, Merseyside, South Yorkshire, Tyne and Wear, West Midlands, and West Yorkshire.

The Government white paper explains that they will use this power to reduce the "overspend" on the public transport provision in the six areas to £107 million in 1986/7, and £57 million in 1987/8.

The Treasury gives no comparable figures for the present level of "overspending" on these services. It is understood, however, that the six metropolitan counties are planning to spend just over £300 million on them in the present financial year, compared with a Government plan for £140 million.

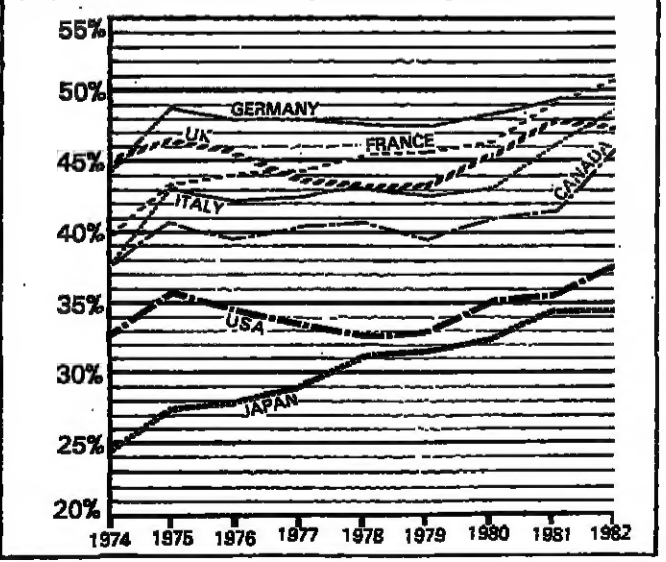
After allowing for inflation, the numbers suggest that the bus and rail subsidies will be cut by at least 40 per cent in the first two years after abolition.

This information is likely to inject some new fire into the debate about the abolition bill, which is now at its committee stage in the Commons.

At a glance

GOVERNMENT SPENDING IN SEVEN COUNTRIES

(Capital and current spending as percentage of the economy)



A graph comparing Britain's public spending against that of other nations. The share of public spending in national income is lower in Britain than in most other European countries, according to figures from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Meals, milk targets

Education

By Andrew Moncur, Education Staff

EDUCATION authorities face a three-year squeeze, with more pressure to save money on their school meals service, under the Government's spending plans.

The total education and science programme for 1985/86 of £13,698 million represents a 5 per cent fall in real terms compared to

Job total lowered

Civil Service

By Richard Norton-Taylor

THE Government is well ahead of its target for reducing the number of civil servants. The white paper suggests that there is room for higher pay increases than the planned 3 per cent limit previously announced by the Treasury.

The paper says that the number of civil servants had fallen to 617,000 in October

Self-help strategy

Farming

The £130 million a year research and development budget is to be cut by £10 million in 1986/7 and by £20 million in 1987/8.

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Licensing team to control human embryo research

By Andrew Veltch, Medical Correspondent

Research on human embryos will be controlled by a voluntary licensing authority to be set up by the Medical Research Council and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, it was announced yesterday.

The authority will have no legal powers. It is due to be working by the end of this month, before the Government debates Mr Enoch Powell's bill to ban embryo research.

Up to 15 members will be chosen by the MRC and RCOG and will include four or more scientists, a similar number of clinicians, four lay members and a lay chairman.

Sir James Gowans, the MRC secretary, said yesterday that the aim was to fill the vacuum until the Government introduced legislation. "This is self-regulation. It is necessary because of public concern," he said.

"We have to persuade the public to trust us. At the end of the day, you might not trust us, but at least we'll have tried."

However, the Department of Health was cool about the authority. Ministers would take account of responses to the Warnock report before introducing measures, said a spokesman.

Authority members will inspect the centres, up to 20 — working in vitro fertilisation (test tube baby) research, draw up a code of practice and issue licences for projects.

Scientists and projects which breach the code will be refused licences and have their names published. Sir James said: "We will have no legal status but we will have considerable clout because everything will be public."

The authority will almost certainly impose a 14-day limit on growing embryos in laboratories. However, the MRC says in its response to the Warnock report that it might be better to specify the limit in terms of stage of development rather than days after fertilisation because variations in the rate of development.

Fertilisation of human eggs specifically for research will be approved. This is being done at MRC laboratories in Cambridge and Edinburgh.

The authority's constitution follows closely the recommendations of the Warnock report that it might be better to specify the limit in terms of stage of development rather than days after fertilisation because variations in the rate of development.

Nearly three-quarters of the 201 district health authorities in England and Wales — legally responsible for providing services — have no facilities for treating sterile couples. Only 12 per cent provide a sterilisation service for women — and less than a third provide vasectomies for men.

Less than half have services tailored to the needs of younger women, even though more than half the 200,000 unwanted pregnancies each year are to those in the 16-25 age group.

Doctors of the Warnock report on IVF except that it will not monitor medical treatment. However, Sir James said the word research would be interpreted to cover the work of almost every clinic involved in IVF.

He condemned MPs who were attempting to ban research on human embryos. "Support for Mr Powell's bill springs largely from lack of knowledge. Politicians are talking out of ignorance. The bill

establishes a framework."

The shadow health minister, Mr Frank Dobson, said: "We would welcome self-regulation, but people with legitimate doubts about research on human embryos will not be satisfied until Parliament establishes a framework."

Mr Wrightson said that the driver began to unload the ferric chloride into the bleach storage tank at the firm's Britannia works, a vast cloud of poisonous chlorine gas was generated by the resulting chemical reaction.

Mr Wrightson said that 29 people were taken to hospital, mainly employees from Hays. Sixteen were still receiving out-patient treatment and one had still not returned to work.

He added: "Fortunately there were no fatalities but this was the most serious industrial accident in West Yorkshire in recent years."

The inspector, Mr Ian Wrightson, said that Hays Chemicals had been expecting a delivery of sodium hypochlorite — but received ferric chloride — but received it arrived at the firm in this was the most serious industrial accident in West Yorkshire in recent years.

A cloud of chlorine gas which put 29 people in hospital was caused by an incredible series of errors, misunderstandings and muddles, a factory inspector told Huddersfield magistrates yesterday.

A Manchester firm, Seville Tank Cleaning Ltd, was fined £3,600 over a worst chemical delivery which the court heard, caused the most serious industrial accident in West Yorkshire in recent years.

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Protest Quakers told to pay arms taxes

By Seumas Milne

THE QUAKERS yesterday lost the first round of their legal battle to withhold contributions towards military spending.

A judge at the Mayor's and City of London Court backed a claim by the Inland Revenue for unpaid taxes, and ordered officials of the Society of Friends to hand over £2,745.39 in PAYE contributions collected from 33 of its employees. The Quakers are expected to take their case to the Appeal Court.

Several people, including Canon Paul Oestreicher, have tried to withhold the proportion of income tax they believe is used for military spending.

The Quakers were represented by Miss Beryl Hibbs, a bookseller from Cambridgeshire, and Mrs Maisie Birmingham, a novelist from Dorset. The two women are clerk and assistant clerk of the Meeting for Sufferings — the executive committee of the Society of Friends.

Miss Hibbs told the court that they were there in the spirit of confrontation with the Inland Revenue or the law. "The decision to agree to withhold 12 per cent of some employees' tax contributions had not been taken lightly, but had been 'guided by the Holy Spirit'."

The staff left, Miss Hibbs explained, that paying taxes which would provide nuclear weapons made them accomplices in a crime against humanity. "It would be a contradiction to pay for arms and pray for peace," she said.

The Quakers' commitment to pacifism has its origins in the refusal of its founder, George Fox, to accept an exemption in Cromwell's army in the 17th century. Miss Hibbs told the court that paying taxes towards war preparations was "in conflict with the peace testimony of Friends, held often at personal cost, for 300 years."

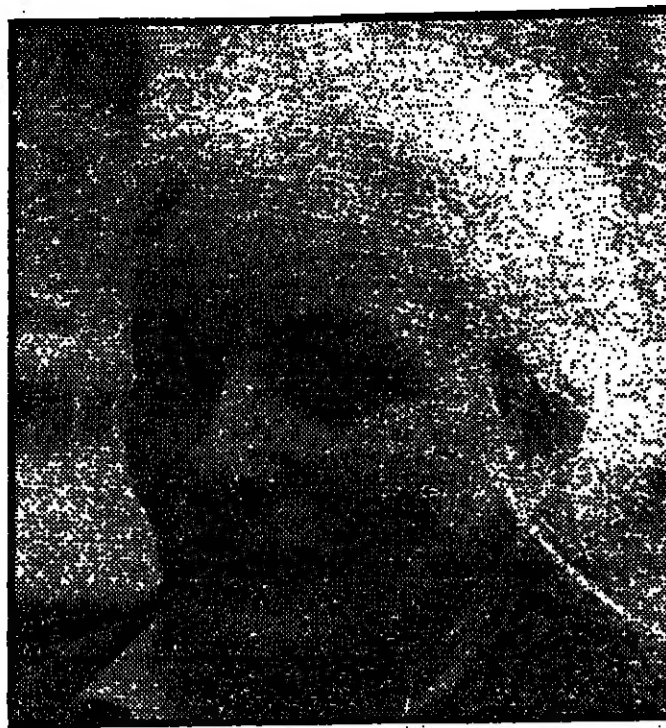
Mrs Birmingham gave the society's legal defence. She said that it was acting as its employees' legal agent by holding back the cash at their request. She also argued that withholding payment of taxes destined for war preparations was the modern equivalent of conscientious objection in an age of weapons of mass destruction.

Judge Richard Rooking said that these were considerations he was not able to take into account. He described the women's arguments as moving and most eloquently put, but they were not a proper defence in law.

The judge accepted the arguments of the Inland Revenue's counsel, Mr Matthew Wald, that the Society of Friends had a statutory duty to pay, and that it would be unlawful to allocate money to a non-military government department.

He also told the women to pay the £40 court fee, and said: "If the fee is such that the law should be changed, the way to go about it is by persuasion through Parliament."

The Quakers' Meeting for Sufferings will decide on February 2 whether to hand over the tax contributions, for the second half of the financial year 1983-4, or appeal against the judge's decision.



"Guided by the Holy Spirit" — Beryl Hibbs (above) and Maisie Birmingham, who represented the Quakers in court

Teachers 'work 20 extra hours'

By John Fairhall, Education Editor

Teachers work on average an extra 20 hours a week on top of their teaching duties, according to a survey by the National Union of Teachers.

The average working week for a teacher emerges as 47 hours during the 39 weeks of term and as a 40-hour week when spread over the 46 weeks of the normal working year.

This is similar to the findings of a survey in the early 1970s by the National Foundation for Educational Research before the teachers' Houghton pay award.

The latest survey showed that teachers were still as committed and were putting in just as many extra hours, the NUT's deputy general secretary, Mr Doug McAvoy, said yesterday. However, since the early 1970s teachers had had to accept additional demands and increased stress while their relative pay had fallen by 30 per cent, he added.

The first results of the NUT survey and another by the union on teachers' increased workload will be placed before the local authority employers when the teachers' branch meets next Monday.

Mr McAvoy said that the employers' leader, Mr Philip Merridale, had questioned the professional commitment of teachers and suggested on the simplest of evidence, that the standard was declining.

He claimed that the surveys also undermined the employers' argument that teachers could be paid more than they offered 2 per cent only if they agreed to take on extra duties, since they already did additional work each day.

The NUT says that the surveys back its claim that salaries should be increased by about 34 per cent in return for the Houghton levels, although the rise might be spread over more than a year.

Mr McAvoy added that to offer teachers a 5 per cent rise was not sensible when local government workers were being offered 5 per cent.

A representative cross-section of 1,012 teachers, heads and deputy heads took part in the survey, which was carried out by monitoring their non-teaching work for four weeks, beginning on November 11.

The figure of an extra 20 hours a week worked came from an analysis of the 300 replies received, and there was surprisingly little difference between the figures for different types of schools.

The survey report also details some teachers' extra working hours, including the Rochdale teacher marking A-level essays each Sunday afternoon, the Kendal sixth form teacher who clocked up about 225 UOCA college and job references in a year, the Essex teacher who had two free lunches in one month, and the Dorset comprehensive teacher who had to clean his classroom and fix loose desks because of cleaning staff

almost 70 per cent of the age group.

There is real anxiety about their development, the committee was told by members of the British Association for Early Childhood Education.

They are being taught by teachers with no specialist nursery training, sometimes in classes of nearly 30 and, in smaller schools, alongside pupils aged six or seven.

Miss Margaret Roberts, president of the association and a former senior lecturer in child development at London University's Institute of Education, argued that all schools taking four-year-olds should be designated as nursery-infant schools.

"They would then be compelled by regulations to provide qualified nursery teachers, working with smaller groups and provided with suitable equipment and more space for their classes."

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Gas cloud costs firm £3,600 fine

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THE DAY IN POLITICS

Campaign Group lead hard left into battle with leadership over direction of Labour Party

By James Naughtie

The Campaign Group of Labour MPs meet tonight to decide how to respond to the challenge of the left. The party leader, conscious that it is now the voice of the hard left in the parliamentary party and determined to give no ground to the leadership in its insistence on a change of direction by the Shadow Cabinet.

The fact that the members know that Mr Kinnoch and nearly all his Shadow Cabinet colleagues are furious at last week's Commons demonstration on the miners and at the general approach of the left is in fact positive encouragement to the members. For it is now clear that the group is determined to assert itself as the leadership of the left in Parliament.

Although this week's demands for a debate have been low key, it is evident that in the PLP the leadership and prominent figures on the left like Mr Tony Benn, Mr Eric Heffer, and Mr Dennis Skinner, are now engaged in a tense debate about the direction of the party — a struggle which Mr Kinnoch believes he can win easily (although not without the spilling of some blood) and which the hard left believes it is vital not to lose.

The emergence of the group is one of the latest symptoms of Labour's internal argument and an indication of the changing face of the left. When the Tribune Group met on Monday to discuss the weekend's public battle between Mr Kinnoch and the hard left, it found itself in a tricky position: supporting the demand for a debate but also expressing loyalty to the leadership.

To the more determined members of the Campaign Group it was an indication of weakness and an encouragement to continue in their efforts. They believe that the emphasis must always be on direct action and they are openly contemptuous of many of the traditional parliamentary tactics employed on the front bench.

Since the Campaign Group's formation at the 1982 party conference (ironically perhaps, it was born in an announcement made from a Tribune rally platform) it has been trying to assert itself as the voice in Parliament of the "new left". The miners' strike provided the opportunity for members to express a distinctive view about Labour's approach and the occasion has suggested that the group might emerge as a powerful force in the PLP.

But it is a strange mixture. Familiar figures on the left and old guard mingle with some unlikely characters — including "boobies" like Etonians Mr Mark Fisher and Mr Tam Dalyell. Yet some of the stalwarts of the traditional left have stayed well clear.

It believes in the force of campaigning. Links with councillors and constituency parties are its strength. It is not a legitimacy; it argues that it has led the fight on many of the issues of interest to party activists.

The annual report noted proudly that the group supports more or less every protest anywhere in the country involving socialists, of whatever hue, and even boasts of some strange activities — for example, the fight "against the party's use of opinion polls."

The question now is whether the group can gather enough strength to influence the leadership without dividing the left fatally. There is a dilemma here. If they do not put up candidates against Mr Kinnoch and Mr Roy Hattersley, his deputy, they can be dismissed. But if they do challenge the leadership openly they will be accused of unnecessarily dividing the party.

But for the moment the most important fact about the Campaign Group is that its formation has led to a deep split on the left, perhaps best summed up during last week's Commons row in a heated exchange between Mr Martin Flannery, a campaign stalwart, and Mr Roland Boyes, a left-winger who refuses to join.

After Mr Boyes refused to stand and join in the demonstration Mr Flannery finally shouted at him: "You're nothing but a Tribune. He neither liked it to be the final insult."

Mr Flannery — final insult

Mr Flannery — final insult

Supporters of GLC claim moral victory over ignored letter

By our Political Staff

Opponents of the abolition of the Greater London Council claimed a small moral victory yesterday when they forced Sir George Young, the Environment Minister, to a retreat in the committee stage of the bill putting the Government's policies into effect.

The Shadow Environment Secretary, Dr John Cunningham, protested that a letter from London borough planning officers implying they supported the government's proposals for abolishing the GLC had been read out by Sir George, but a letter containing detailed criticisms had been ignored.

Dr Cunningham demanded a correction at the start of the continued committee stage yesterday and supporters of the GLC were satisfied when Sir George conceded that it might have been better if he had also read out the other letter. The committee has still a long way to go and a guillotine on debate is expected next month.

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Tories challenge extra Market payment

THE EEC

By Alan Travis
Mr Ian Stewart, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, was harassed by Tory anti-Marketters yesterday when he asked the Commons to approve a £119 million supplementary payment to help bail out the EEC.

The Commons held a three-hour debate on the special supplementary estimate, which follows the inter-governmental deal hammered out last autumn between member states. The extra payment is Britain's proposed share of a £600 million total which the EEC partners have been asked to find because last year's EEC budget ran out before the end of 1984.

Mr Stewart told the Commons that the £119 million would be repaid to the United Kingdom in eight half-yearly instalments from 1985.

He said there had been a considerable overrun in EEC expenditure in 1984 which had caused disruption in the Common Market.

He said that it was essential to approve the supplementary estimates or payments would not be made to UK recipients from the EEC social and regional fund.

Mr Stewart told MPs that during negotiations over the level of the payments the figure of £119 million had been brought down considerably and agreement was not reached until the other member states had agreed to pay refunds due to the UK and institute new budgetary discipline measures. The British Government had refused to agree to the payment unless the matter was decided by the United Kingdom Parliament.

The agreement on budgetary discipline was signed in Dublin in December. Mr Stewart said: "It is an agreement of member states to pay this supplementary amount and not an instruction from the EEC. We believe

that considerable progress has been made in the past 12 months in improving financial discipline. The Government's aim is not to disrupt but to reform."

But his statements were not enough to convince several Tory backbench Conservatives. Mr Eric Forth (C, Mid-Worcestershire), a former EEC-MP, wondered if this would really be the last time the Commons was asked to approve such a supplementary payment.

Mr Anthony Beaumont (C, Birmingham, Selly Oak) said Mr Stewart's assurances on budget discipline were "no more than pious words. . . Can you tell me how we are to believe that, if there are no sanctions and it depends just on goodwill and on people who have broken their word to this country in the past, why should we believe that the past practices will not just continue?"

Mr Teddy Taylor (C, Southend E) asked the minister how he could justify extra cash for the EEC for

considerable overrun in EEC expenditure in 1984 which had caused disruption in the Common Market.

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General Zenon Platek, the most senior Interior Ministry official to give evidence at the trial of four Polish policemen accused of murdering Father Popieluszko, stands in the centre of a group (left) in the Torun courtroom yesterday. In Gdan sk (right), General Jaruzelski meets a woman worker at the Lenin shipyard, where Solidarity was born

Tass critical but Geneva forum is safe

Reagan space arms stand irks Russia

By Hella Pick

The Soviet Union, although sharply critical of President Reagan's inaugural speech, has reaffirmed its intention to stand by the Geneva agreement to begin wide-ranging arms-control negotiations with the United States.

A Tass commentary, published within hours of the speech, attacked Mr Reagan's justification of research into space weapons. But there was no implied threat that Mr Reagan's determination not to be diverted from the Strategic Defence Initiative could foreclose arms negotiations between the Superpowers.

Instead, Tass noted plaintively that "the President did not specify whether the United States intended to take a constructive stand at the talks on space weapons."

The Soviet Union is calling for a ban on weapons in space and its Foreign Minister, Mr Gromyko, has described the US space research programme as a plan of aggression which the Soviet Union "resolutely opposes."

The United States has already appointed its negotiating team for the forthcoming talks, and it held its first meeting yesterday to prepare its strategy. The Americans have also proposed that the negotiations be held in Geneva, from early March.

The Soviet Union has not yet named its negotiators or said when and where it would like to begin the talks. However, Western diplomats believe that Geneva will be chosen as the most convenient venue by both delegations, and that the Soviet Union is likely to opt for late March or early April for the initial session.

It is not clear to what extent the Russians have briefed the other Warsaw Pact countries of their assessment of the Geneva agreement to negotiate about medium-range and strategic nuclear missiles, as well as space weapons, and to consider the preservation of strategic stability.

Soviet diplomats have been assisting in giving Western capitals their views on Geneva. At the same time, Mr Kenneth Adelman, the head of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, has visited several East European capitals to brief them on the US "view

about Geneva and the President's belief in space weapons as a defensive shield, which could lead to the elimination of offensive nuclear weapons.

These actions probably go beyond a desire to inform the interested parties. The United States wants to break down resistance to space weapons throughout Europe.

The Soviet Union, on the other hand, is seeking every opening to exploit reservations about space weapons among the NATO countries in an attempt to drive a wedge in the Alliance.

Alex Brummer adds from Washington: President Reagan yesterday began the first working day of his second term by calling his new arms negotiators to the White House to give them "marching orders" for the new round of bargaining with the Soviet Union.

The President's decision to hold the meeting so quickly after his inauguration was intended to send a signal to the country and Moscow about his determination to make the arms reduction talks his top priority in a second term.

Antonov in hi-tech appeal

From Anna Tomford in Bonn

THE Soviet Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Alexei Antonov, ended two days of trade talks here yesterday by criticising the West's restrictions on the transfer of high technology to the Soviet Union.

The first high-level government contact between Bonn and Moscow since the deployment of Pershing II missiles here was described by the West Germans as a "sign of growing normality" in relations between the two countries. Mr Antonov had talks with Chancellor Kohl yesterday.

The Economics Minister, Mr Martin Bangemann, said after the meeting of the joint economic commission that West Germany could compete for contracts totalling DM 20 billion (\$5.5 billion) within the framework of Moscow's new five-year plan beginning in 1986.

Chemicals, machine tools, energy, with the involvement of small- and medium-sized firms, were named as promising areas.

Bonn is the West's biggest exporter to the Soviet Union, but imports from Russia have risen since 1980, chiefly due to increased shipments of oil and gas. What was a comfortable surplus in West Germany's favour has turned into a deficit.

Mr Antonov said yesterday that bilateral trade could be even more impressive if it were not hampered by the West's limits on technology exports to the Soviet Union.

He said the Americans are absolutely sure that the Soviet Union has been doing research on an SDI (Strategic Defence Initiative) of their own, he told a news conference while on a five-day visit to Canada.

"It seems to me it would be the height of imprudence if the US did not do the research itself," he added. —Reuter.

Belgium to take cruise missiles 'during March'

From Derek Brown in Brussels

Cruise missiles may be installed in Belgium before the end of March, according to Government and diplomatic sources here.

The Prime Minister, Mr Martens, is committed only to deciding a timetable for deployment by the end of March. But by dismantling some of its own SS20 missiles.

"A concrete attitude by the Soviets in the weeks to come would be important to us," Mr Swaelen told local reporters. He heightened impressions of a change in CVP strategy by expressing total confidence in the Government.

The CVP leadership was deeply alarmed at the turn of the year by a private opinion poll showing its support crumbling on the cruise issue. A general election is due before the end of 1985, and the Christian Democrats and their rightwing liberal partners desperately want to divert public attention from the economic recovery which they claim to have generated.

Diplomats based here say they detect a new resolve by the Government to go for early deployment in the hope that the issue will recede before the preferred polling date of December 8.

Mr Martens's announcements of a deployment timetable by the end of March was made after his return last week from talks with President Reagan in Washington. It is seen in some quarters here as an assertion of independence (the first 16 missiles were originally intended to be in place by mid-March) rather than a serious delaying tactic.

But there remains a good deal of unease at NATO headquarters, just outside Brussels, about the possible knock-on effect of continuing uncertainty.

his Christian Democrat Party is now said to be steeling itself for a timetable announcement to be followed very quickly by the arrival of the first 48 missiles.

The Prime Minister's own wing of the Christian Democrats, the CVP, has wavered greatly on the issue, between rightwingers who favour early deployment and a centrist faction which believes the missiles to be dangerous to the country and electorally disastrous for the CVP.

The President of the party, Mr Frank Swaelen, who last year demanded a freeze on deployment, is now saying that the Soviet Union, should make a significant gesture for peace

Pravda says Britain is more realistic on defence policy

Moscow. Pravda said yesterday that Britain's position on arms control had become slightly more realistic.

The report from the London correspondent, Mr Arkady Maslennikov, gave a relatively positive assessment of Anglo-Soviet relations.

Britons were becoming more aware that US policies, especially President Reagan's Star Wars plan, would turn Britain into a mere appendage of Washington's politico-military machine, Mr Maslennikov wrote.

Elements in British society opposing attempts to halt the arms race and better Anglo-Soviet relations were active but losing influence, he said.

"Amid all the fluctuations of the local political weather, the barometer needle has moved a little bit towards realism and a more sober assessment of current world changes," he said.

At least that is what one would like to believe. Only time will tell," he added.

The Pravda correspondent made a point of distinguishing between US and British attitudes to Mr Reagan's plans for a space-based missile defence system.

While Washington was proposing the effective militarisation of space, Mrs Thatcher had come out only in support of "research work," he said.

The article quoted Mrs Thatcher as saying in a television interview that if new space weapons were developed the expense for both Washington and Moscow would be enormous.

In Ottawa, the Secretary-General of NATO Lord Carrington said yesterday that it would be unwise of the US to abandon research on Star Wars.

The Americans are absolutely sure that the Soviet Union has been doing research on an SDI (Strategic Defence Initiative) of their own," he told a news conference while on a five-day visit to Canada.

"It seems to me it would be the height of imprudence if the US did not do the research itself," he added. —Reuter.

Smugglers who are sitting on a million

From Jane Walker in Madrid

Women are smuggling more than £1 million worth of drugs into Spain every day inside their bodies — and police are powerless to prevent it.

Customs officials in Algeciras say that up to 300 women cross the straits of Gibraltar from Morocco with the drugs, mostly concentrated hashish, hidden inside them.

Police in the port recently installed new X-ray equipment capable of detecting the drugs, but admit that the women cannot be forced to expel the packages, and that after three days the women must be released.

Frustrated officials complain that some women have made the journey a dozen times.

Customs officials warn that the activity could easily spread to Gibraltar once its border with Spain is fully opened in two weeks time.

Silesians change their tune

From our Correspondent in Bonn

THE Association of Exiles from Silesia — which is now part of Poland — yesterday modified the motto for its annual gathering in June. Chancellor Kohl will now feel able to address the meeting.

The original motto, "Forty years of expulsion — Silesia remains ours" had come under strong attack from the Polish Government, and reinforced recent East bloc charges of West German "revanchism."

The new motto announced yesterday is "Forty years of expulsion — Silesia remains our future in a Europe of free peoples."

The opposition Social Democratic Party said that the new slogan, while not implying a clear historical claim to former German territory, still contradicted the spirit of détente.

Western diplomats and officials in Bonn have been puzzled at Chancellor Kohl's allowing the tug-of-war over the motto to go on for several months. Even now, there are widespread objections to his becoming the first chancellor for 20 years to address the Silesian meeting.

The Chancellor, although keen to appease rightwing MPs in his Christian Democratic Union and to preserve the conservative vote, had made clear that he would not appear under the original motto.

Ahead of the fortieth anniversary of VE day in May, the quarrel has been particularly embarrassing. But critics said yesterday that consistency about Mr Kohl's attendance within a month of the May 8 anniversary was bound to continue.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Moscow flats searched

POLICE yesterday searched the Moscow apartments of 10 people who signed a petition last month asking authorities to investigate claims of harassment of Jews applying to emigrate. Jewish activists said, One, Don Shatro, was arrested and taken away immediately after the search. — AP.

Sudan 'mutiny'

A SUDANESE rebel radio broadcast has claimed that government troops mutinied last weekend at Bor, the capital of Jonglei province, and killed their commander. The broadcast on Monday said 192 policemen and wildlife rangers defected to the People's Liberation Army. — AP.

Polls on target

THE PRESIDENT of Bangladesh, Hossain Mohammad Ershad, said yesterday that parliamentary elections would be held in April as planned and urged opposition parties to participate. The general Ershad warned that the government would not tolerate further attempts to delay the polls. — Reuter.

Arms deal claim

THE UGANDAN opposition weekly, Munnansi, claimed in Kampala yesterday that a Bulgarian airplane had been carrying relief aid into the country actually flew in arms and ammunition, then departed with a cargo of coffee. — AP.

Baby Sue

A TAIWANESE man who paid a woman \$30,000 to give birth to a girl, a court official in Taipei said yesterday. Mr Lu entered a five-year contract with the 21-year-old woman but yesterday the court nullified it. — Reuter.

Cardinal ill

AN ITALIAN Cardinal, Paolo Bertoli, the Vatican's Camerlengo (chamberlain) nominally in charge of the stroke, the Vatican announced yesterday that the Pope's absence or death is semi-paralysed after a stroke, the Vatican announced yesterday. — Reuter.

Import protest

NORWAY will cut imports from South Africa by 50 per cent in 1985 because of Pretoria's policy of apartheid, the Commerce and Shipping Minister, Mr Asbjørn Haugstvedt, said in a newspaper interview yesterday. — Reuter.

22 arrested

TWENTY-TWO alleged members of a radical Trotskyite group were arrested in Egypt on Monday night and charged with subversion, the Interior Ministry said yesterday. Another 25 suspected members have been arrested during the past two weeks. Eight remain at large.

Dismissed

FIVE Bolivian generals have been relieved of their duties for resisting an order from President Hernan Siles Zuazo to dismiss the head of the army, the Defence Ministry said in La Paz yesterday.

Guatemala ready to give ground

From Paul Eban in Guatemala City

Guatemala's military regime has offered significant concessions in an attempt to settle its long-standing territorial dispute with the neighbouring former British colony of Belize.

Diplomatic and political sources here said that the concessions had raised hopes that a meeting scheduled for next month in New York of Guatemalan, British, and Belizean negotiators could agree on the framework for an overall settlement.

The meeting, to be held on February 12 at the Guatemalan mission to the UN, is expected to discuss a proposal by which Guatemala would recognise the independence of Belize in exchange for two tiny islands at the mouth of the Gulf of Honduras.

The islands, Hunting and Zapotillo, are uninhabited except at weekends when they are visited by Guatemalan tourists. Their position would allow the regime, headed by General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores to claim that it had satisfied the principal cause of its claim to Belize — Guatemala's need for unimpeded access to the Atlantic Ocean.

General Mejia Victores and the military are said to be anxious to reach an early settlement in case a civilian government, due to be elected before the end of this year, adopts a hard line on the Be-



General Mejia Victores: eager for early settlement

Peru accused of killing and torturing Indian peasants

By Jonathan Steele

Peru is suffering from a growing wave of civilian murders by security forces which has left hundreds of people dead and more than 1,000 others missing in the last two years, according to Amnesty International.

The scale of the killing, often after torture, is unprecedented in recent Peruvian history and has brought the country down to the level of the atrocities more usually associated with parts of Central America.

The victims are mainly Quechua-speaking Indian peasants, local leaders, and young people who live in and around Ayacucho. Amnesty says in a report published today. In most cases, the bodies when found are naked, marked by torture, and with single gunshot wounds to the head; in many cases, the victims are found blindfolded and with their hands bound behind their backs.

The report points out that the killings began to increase sharply soon after January, 1983, when the army and navy became directly involved in counterinsurgency against the Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso) guerrilla group. It says that Amnesty has received scores of reports of killing by the group, which it condemns.

Shining Path has adopted a policy of public execution-style killing of people it considers enemies, usually in front of assembled villagers. Amnesty has had no reports of guerrilla attempts to make the victims unidentifiable.

The report says that the Peruvian Ministry of the Interior has attributed 433 civilian deaths to the guerrillas in 1983 and an estimated 1,200 in the first half of last year.

But "in several cases, government reporting attributed political killings by guerrillas to the army's Political-Military Command never refers to purported guerrillas being taken prisoner or wounded. This raises the fear that many people reported to have been guerrillas killed in armed clashes were actually murdered after capture and that many may not have been guerrillas at all.

The report mentions several secret detention centres where victims are tortured and never seen again. It talks of documentation on 76 cases of children and teenagers who have disappeared. It also touches on the municipal stadium at Huanta where many people are taken for interrogation. It describes a number of new notorious roadside dumping grounds, where bodies of people previously reported as having been detained by the security forces have been discovered.

The report mentions an incident at Pichari where 100 mines took revenge on a village after an ambush in which guerrillas killed an army captain. Fifty-four villagers were shot and buried in a trench dug by army engineers with a bulldozer.

It also tells of a journalist who went into the stadium at Huanta while his wife and sis-

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At least 60 officials being questioned or under suspicion

Two French civilians quit India in spy scandal

New Delhi: Two Frenchmen allegedly involved in India's biggest spy scandal since independence left the country before a French diplomat, accused of buying national secrets, was recalled to Paris on Indian government instructions, the United News of India reported yesterday.

A senior government source confirmed that one Frenchman — a non-diplomat — escaped. The source, however, did not know about the other person, identified by UNI as a businessman.

The report said that the businessman "slipped out" of

A French embassy spokesman, Mr Chantal Haage, asked about the report, said: "no comment."

The French Foreign Ministry has refused to comment on allegations of French involvement in the spy scandal since it made a brief statement last Sunday on the recall of Lt-Col. Alain Bolley, the deputy military attaché in New Delhi.

Lt-Col. Bolley was accused in press reports of working for the American Central Intelligence Agency, but he described the allegations as "ridiculous."

Meanwhile, a senior Government source said that investigators also were considering a possible Soviet connection in the leaks from the Prime Minister's Office. The KGB may have used a West European diplomat to gather highly classified information, the source said.

Meanwhile, more than 60 senior Government, military, and counter-intelligence officers were being questioned or were under surveillance as suspects in the spy ring last Thursday.

At least 16 alleged spies, including 14 government employees, were arrested and 60 others were suspected of involvement, government sources said.

The first Frenchman, who also was not named, left India last Saturday, UNI said. The independent Indian Express newspaper reported yesterday that a Frenchman, whom it identified as the ringleader, left the country by a commercial airliner on Saturday.

India after being tipped off by an official that he was under surveillance. The man was said to have left before the discovery of a spy ring last Thursday.

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How a Maoist mob hunted down family

By John Gittings

A particularly gruesome murder during the Cultural Revolution — involving as victims the relatives of a man whose reputation once rivalled Chairman Mao — has finally been solved, according to press reports from Canton.

The descendants of Peng Pei, the Communist Party's first peasant organiser, were denounced by Maoists in the southern town of Haifeng in August 1967. His nephew, Peng Ke, was killed by a mob after being chased into the hills. Hong Guowen, the man who hacked his head off with a machete, and then hung it on the town gate, was executed last weekend.

Peng Pei, one of the earliest members of the Communist Party, headed in 1924 the Peasant Institute in Canton which had been set up by the Chinese Guomindang (Nationalist Party) — at that time in alliance with the Communists. The problem for his family in 1967 was that Mao also taught at the institute, which later became exclusively linked with his name.

Peng went on to found the first, short-lived rural Soviet base after the Guomindang-Communist split in 1927-28. Mao was at that time establishing a separate base with the

support of local bandits which became the starting point for his strategy of guerrilla war.

On August 26, 1967, the Canton Evening News reported last week a faction claiming to support Chairman Mao in Haifeng started campaigning against Peng Pei's relatives. Six of them were quickly killed, and the rest fled to the hills. But Peng's nephew was surrounded and wounded by a burst of machinegun fire. Hong Guowen finished him off with half a dozen chops through the neck.

It has not been explained why a proper investigation of the crime was not launched until 1983.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta told the handicapped son of China's leader, Deng Xiaoping, yesterday that his efforts for the disabled showed he loved God.

"But I am an atheist," said Deng Pufang, whose legs were paralysed when fellow students forced him out of a window during the Cultural Revolution.

"But what you do is your love of God in action. Deep down in your heart you have a love of God," the Roman Catholic winner of the Nobel Peace Prize told him.

She offered to pray for him and asked for his prayers in return, when they met in Peking.



Moving out: Refugees wait for buses to take them away from the troubled Thai-Kampuchean border. Thai sources reported yesterday that 15 Vietnamese soldiers died, and 20 were wounded, in attacks by guerrillas of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front on border bases at Poipet, inside Kampuchea. Fighting was also reported between the Vietnamese and Khmer Rouge guerrillas in the Phnom Makhoun area.

Afghan attack on airfield

New Delhi: About 10,000 Soviet troops were sent to eastern Afghanistan last week to combat guerrilla attacks, Western diplomatic sources reported.

A Soviet division of 5,000 to 10,000 troops was sent to Paktia province, bordering Pakistan, on January 15 to counter heavy attacks by anti-Marxist guerrillas, the diplomats said. No immediate details of the attacks were available.

Twelve helicopters, meanwhile, were reported to have been destroyed by Islamic rebels on January 17 at a Soviet airbase north-west of Kabul.

Taking advantage of a snowstorm, the guerrillas staged a daring, daylight attack on the Bagram airbase and destroyed the helicopters because of bad weather.

A large convoy of about 70 armoured personnel carriers with at least 700 soldiers was seen moving toward eastern Nangarhar district on January 13, the diplomats reported.

According to an earlier report, the 53th Afghan brigade is under guerrilla siege in the Paktia town of Barket despite Soviet efforts to dislodge the insurgents.

The diplomats said that the Russians were still not able to supply the regiment with arms because it is surrounded by Mujahedin rebels.

The Russians meanwhile, continued to try to seal Afghanistan's borders with Iran and Pakistan and about 11,000 additional troops have been sent to the areas after renewed cross-frontier raids.

A domestic airliner was hit by rebel rocket fire near Kabul on January 9, the diplomats said. The pilot was reported to have been wounded in the attack, although he managed to land the aircraft safely.

Guerrillas also attacked an airport in Kandahar on January 14 and 15, destroying many aircraft.

France to build military base in New Caledonia

Noumea: France plans to build an important military base in New Caledonia when the territory becomes independent, a French High Commission official said yesterday.

The official, who did not want to be named, said that the air and naval base would be a hub for French strategic operations in the Pacific. He did not say how much it would cost.

The idea for the base was an old one but the go-ahead to build it was made only when President Mitterrand of France visited the troubled island on Saturday, he said.

Mr Mitterrand said in Paris on Monday that France intended to retain its strategic position in the region.

"As soon as I returned to Paris (from New Caledonia) I asked the Prime Minister to take every measure to this end, particularly with regard to the installations needed to strengthen the military base at Noumea," he said.

The base would operate on similar lines to the American bases in the Philippines, the official said. Washington rents Clark airfield and Subic Bay naval base from its former colony.

The French plan hinges on a solution to the question of independence for New Caledonia.

Militant Kanaks, the indigenous Melanesians who are a minority among the island's 145,000 people, are campaigning for independence but French settlers firmly oppose the move.

A special envoy, Mr Edgard Pisani, has proposed that New Caledonia become independent next year with France retaining special economic and defence links. He has suggested a July referendum on his plan.

The military base is expected to be rented on a 99-year lease. "It would give the Caldoches (settlers) confidence that it had a \$3 million worth of equipment at the mine last week," the official said.

He stressed that the installation would not have a role in policing New Caledonia but would be a base for strategic French operations in the region. The planned site is near Tontouta international airport, 30 miles from Noumea. The airport has by a deep, sheltered bay.

Meanwhile, Kanak leaders yesterday demanded the release of 57 detained militants before they would allow a sabotaged nickel mine to reopen.

The Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) said in a statement that it would block resumption of production at the mine in the east coast town of Thio if the 57 people were not released. Security forces must also withdraw from the area, they said.

But the FLNKS, which spearheads the Kanaks' independence campaign, denied that it had sabotaged \$3 million worth of equipment at the mine last week. — Reuters.



Carefully Fostered: Tiny Medland, the winner of the Queensland Bear Belly Competition displays his massive midriff at the seaside resort, the Gold Coast, near Brisbane.

Farmers dig in for battle

La Foa, New Caledonia: French settlers are building defences around their farms to ward off militants who, they say, are trying to grab their land.

They have dug gun emplacements on high ground, installed searchlights around farmhouses, and formed radio links in case of trouble.

The whites are preparing for a conflict as Melanesian Kanaks step up their drive for an end to 131 years of French rule.

At the same time, Kanak tribesmen are building armed barricades around their own land, fearing revenge attacks from settlers.

While the French Government tries to get both sides to agree on a formula for independence, rural areas are edging dangerously close to war.

Spokesman for both sides said the settlers and the Kanaks had established military training camps.

About 10,000 settlers farm more than half the island's rich cattle-grazing lands. Most interpret independence as meaning that they would have to give up the land to the 55,000 Kanaks who live in the most part on the sparse mountain slopes. Some settlers were put under siege when the Kanaks began a drive for independence in mid-November.

They had to be supplied by air after the Kanaks blocked roads. The roadblocks were removed last month for the independence talks.

The 55,000 settlers in the capital, Noumea, have been largely unaffected by the violence which has killed 19 people. Their main irritation has been a night curfew imposed under a state of emergency declared on January 12.

But settlers on the fertile west coast say they are being encircled by Kanaks. They are forming a farmers' militia, with women and teenagers being taught to handle guns at secret training sessions.

Reuters.

Lebanon demands pull-out timetable

From Arif Haskel in Jerusalem

Lebanon yesterday cautiously welcomed Israel's plan to withdraw its occupation forces from southern Lebanon but demanded a detailed timetable for the pullback.

Israel presented Lebanon with a three-phase plan for its withdrawal during talks between military officials in Naqura. The officials said in a joint statement afterwards that they would meet again tomorrow.

The head of the Israeli delegation, Brigadier Amos Gilboa, said he was pleased to note that at least some of the Lebanese officers realised that the time was past for restoring positions adopted before the Israeli Government decided to withdraw its forces.

"The real problem now is how to coordinate the handing over of the area to the Lebanese and to the United Forces," he said.

The Lebanese delegation promised to deliver Beirut's reply to the Israeli proposals for a coordinated handover at tomorrow's meeting. Brig. Gilboa warned that if they failed to reach an agreement what might happen was that Israel would pull out next month from the Sidon area would be all theirs.

A Lebanese statement said that Israel sought to present its plan as a withdrawal, but it was in reality only a redeployment because the Israeli Cabinet would be required to approve the next two stages. It added that Lebanon would be prepared to seek a wider role for UN troops if Israel pulled out next month from the Sidon area would be all theirs.

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Israeli sources described the car-bomb explosion in Sidon on Monday as a forerunner of what was likely to happen if the Lebanese failed to put their house in order. The Lebanese Prime Minister, Mr Rashid Karami, blamed Israel for the bombing which injured a Sunni Muslim leader.

A senior Israeli official said that the Sidon area was a hotbed of rival militia activity by Christians, Shiite Muslims and Sunni Muslims, and denied any Israeli involvement.

A general strike yesterday paralysed West Beirut and Sidon where angry residents burned tyres to protest against Muslim violence.

As Israeli troops continued yesterday to evacuate equipment, the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Peres, told KFI that the decision to pull out was not a political act, but rather a moral one, based on diplomatic considerations.

He also rejected objections by Likud members who suggested that the decision had been hasty. It was time for Israel to abandon ideas of forcing a peace treaty on the Lebanese, he said.

Night raids pose new Gulf threat

Bahrain: Iraqi night raids on ships in an area of the Gulf well south of its earlier attacks represent a new hazard to vessels in the waterway, shipping sources said yesterday.

Iraq's official media said that its campaign against Gulf shipping this year, together with new night raids, marked a fresh stage in the war with Iran, now in its fifth year.

Baghdad says it has hit 20 "naval targets" this year. Five attacks have been independently confirmed but none were on oil tankers.

More than 50 ships, many of them tankers, were hit last year by both sides in the conflict.

The latest confirmed strike came early yesterday on the 347-ton salvage tug Ribut, chartered to the Dutch firm Wismulder. Shipping sources said that it was hit in darkness 85 miles farther south than any previous confirmed attack by Iraq.

Lloyds Shipping Intelligence in London said that the ship was hit by a French-made Exocet missile, an air-to-surface weapon known to have been supplied to Iraq.

Gulf shippers described the reported position of the Ribut at the time of the attack as a "worrying development." This is a congested area of the Gulf and many of us are sailing at night to avoid attack," one shipping official said.

Previous attacks in this zone of the Gulf have been attributed to Iran, which has carried out attacks only by day.

In Baghdad, the newspaper of the ruling Arab Ba'ath party said yesterday that Iraq's blockade of Iranian ports, which started last February, has now entered a new phase.

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S. Africa pulls Defence Force out of Ciskei as row deepens

From Patrick Laurence in Johannesburg

All South African Defence Force personnel seconded to the Ciskei Defence Force were yesterday withdrawn "with immediate effect," the Foreign Minister, Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, announced.

The decision, contained in a communiqué to Ciskei from South Africa, follows the suspension of the commander of the Ciskei Defence Force, Brigadier A.A. Nel — a seconded SADF officer — and two of his colleagues, Major J.H. Lewis, and Captain F.R. Barnard.

The communiqué accused the Ciskei regime of violating the "principles of international law and of understandings reached between South Africa and Ciskei." It added: "The Ciskei Government has left the South African Government no alternative but to withdraw, with immediate effect, all members of the SADF still serving in the Ciskei."

The number of seconded SADF officers in the tiny, battalion-strong Ciskei Defence Force was understood to be "less than 80." But their commanding positions made them vital to Ciskei, one of South Africa's four nominally independent "homelands."

The suspension of the three

SADF officers came after the death last month of two Ciskei soldiers at the Sandile and Mampaso military bases in the "homeland."

President Botha told a special session of the Ciskei National Assembly a fortnight ago that an inquiry into the deaths had uncovered "gross irregularities."

The inquiry left him no option but to reshuffle his cabinet, he said, adding that action would have to be taken against Brig. Nel and Maj. Lewis. The Cabinet reshuffle included the appointment of Chief D. N. Mavuso as Ciskei's new Defence Minister in place of the Rev. T. Ntshinga.

The Ciskei Cabinet was scheduled to meet the chief of the SADF, General Constand Viljoen, last week, to discuss the affairs of the Ciskei Defence Force. However, the

meeting did not take place because President Botha was taken ill and admitted to Frere hospital in East London.

Until the suspension of the three South African officers, relations between the Ciskei Defence Force and the SADF appear to have been good.

Late last year, the Ciskei Department of Information announced the return of the first contingent of Ciskei soldiers from the "operational area" along the Namibian border with Angola, where they fought alongside South African soldiers.

A Ciskei statement said at the time: "Ciskei and South Africa have common enemies in communism and terrorism. These enemies do not adhere to the territorial boundaries of any state and it was with this in mind that the contingent went to assist in the operational area."

Relations between President Botha and the South African Foreign Minister were strained last year. Mr Botha accused Ciskei of wasting South African taxpayers' money. President Botha said Mr Botha was interfering in Ciskei's internal affairs at the time of the dismissal and trial of the former commander of Ciskei's security forces, Lt-General Charles Sebe.

Ordeal for Britons

Lagos: Two British helicopter engineers who were arrested after a Lagos High Court discharged them in a case of aircraft theft may face fresh charges, a British High Commission official said yesterday.

Mr Kenneth Clark and Mr Angus Patterson were accused of helping another Briton to fly an executive jet out of Lagos airport last May in defiance of a government ban on private flights at the time.

Last Friday, the prosecution, which said it was acting on instructions from the Attorney-General, withdrew its case. The two men, who have been held for eight months, were arrested again as they stepped out of the court.

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Armed Republican silhouettes in the Bogside — picture by Denis Thorpe

Ulster's fifth column

Ronit Lentin visited Derry and talked to women there about conflict between the national struggle and their own interests

ANNE came to the Derry Women's Aid refuge because there was no such facility in her native Donegal. I talk to her in a room packed with refugee residents, all smoking furiously and talking at once, eager to share their experiences as do most women who recently escaped domestic violence. Yet the Derry refuge is not like any other in the Republic or Britain. Ever since its foundation nine years ago, it has had it rough in a city committed to male violence to which women are often more than tacit accomplices.

"We are in the middle of a Protestant area and as we are seen as a Catholic house, we are constantly being harassed," tells refuge administrator Maureen Mitchell. "Whenever there is an Orange parade, we are pelted with stones, although 25 per cent of our women are Protestants."

Maureen's claim that religious and nationalistic divides do not enter the refuge set-up — domestic violence is equally prevalent among nationalists and loyalists — is refuted by another refugee, and broadcaster Eileen Evason. "In Northern Ireland battered wives cannot always get help because their own families and neighbours don't want to know," she says.

Some years ago, the Derry refuge, of which Evason was one of the founders, had three

women, one on the run from a British soldier, one on the run from a Provisional IRA man and one on the run from a UVF man. "My feeling at the time," says Evason, "was that the men would have sunk their differences to attack the house and get at the women."

I have come to Derry to talk to women and see how relevant feminism is in the current political climate. I meet Eileen Evason, at a friend's house. Active in the Northern Ireland women's movement since its inception, Evason chairs the Child Poverty Action Group and the Women's Housing Association and teaches social administration at Magee College, among her other activities.

According to her, sectarian and political violence has a particularly detrimental effect on the lives of women in Northern Ireland. "Women are behind bars, live on low incomes when their men are in prison, spend a fortune visiting them and get very little in return. Moreover, women are policed by their own people when they go out with another man while their man is in gaol. I know women whose husbands were in gaol who were threatened with being shot when they looked for a divorce."

Eileen Evason does not mince words when she says that the style of life in Northern Ireland: "Northern Ireland,

both nationalist and loyalist, is an armed patriarchy. Men use paramilitary violence to reinforce their control over women."

Apparent everywhere, this double standard screams particularly within the republican movement, where Evason says, women, relegated to minor roles, have to accept that issues concerning them come low on the priority list. "Understanding women doesn't come into revolutionary movements in third world countries — and Northern Ireland is a peripheral economy third world country, although we happen to be located in the first world."

Feminists south and north of the border continue to be divided in their attitude to the national struggle. Some argue that "there is no contradiction between fighting for the liberation of our country and fighting for the liberation of women." Others believe the interests of women should come first and others again say that the national struggle takes precedence. Many fighting women members of the republican paramilitaries accept the armed struggle as inevitable for sheer survival, sweeping its contradictions under the ideological carpet.

I have heard similar arguments from Palestinian women living in territories occupied by Israel, who believe that once they have a

Palestinian state, the status of women will fall into place. To those who believe that a united Ireland will solve the problem of women, Eileen Evason brings Iran as an example. "Everybody was saying all they needed was to get rid of the Shah. They did, but women are still running around in chadors."

In Northern Ireland, 35 per cent of all households live below the official British poverty line and there is 50 per cent unemployment in Catholic areas like Derry. Evason thinks women should not support the reunification of Ireland at the cost of worsening social conditions. Having prepared a report on the status of women north and south for the New Ireland Forum, she says: "For many women the priority is getting the British out, but even in Catholic areas I see women ecstatic over reunification. They are too used to housing benefits, separation orders, supplementary benefits when separated, free health service."

"The British are wrong to execute people summarily, but the Provos do the same thing," says Evason. "Unfortunately, I fear the republicans will accept a united Ireland at any cost, cruise missiles, no status for women and so on. The war was lost 10 years ago and every death since then has been a

waste. A revolution costing even the life of one child is not worth fighting for. Women in Northern Ireland are caught between three fascist groups, the British, the Provos and the UVF — all men. How can any woman support a struggle which involves things like the Darkley murders?"

Like Evason, republican activist Mary Nellis would not live under the republic's existing constitution and government, who is, she says, exploiting the Irish just like the British do.

She sees no contradiction between national and women's issues. "Any separation is due to priorities," she tells me in her Craggan home. Talking about abortion, outlawed in both the republic and Northern Ireland, Nellis says: "Abortion is not a major issue here simply because women here worry more about their men ever come out of gaol."

"Women are oppressed by the British, by the Church and by their men. Fifteen years ago I was the traditional Irish wife and mother to my nine children. The nationalist struggle has changed my position. More women have been working with Sinn Féin in the last year. Women come to us for advice in Sun Fein centres, which serve as catalysts."

Nellis is well aware of the contradictions of a committed existence as a woman in Northern Ireland. "Some days I feel nothing is worth this suffering, not even the changes I want to see happen. And then I look around and think what other bloody way is there? We have tried achieving reform through discussion and through voting — we've tried all the peaceful ways and they haven't got us anywhere."

In my Derry visit I meet only Catholic activists. Only a few links seem to have been forged with Protestant women. "Working class Protestant women are even more oppressed than nationalist women," says Nellis. But when I press her about how much she had done to make contact, she can tell only of one Protestant woman she met while visiting her protesting son in Long Kesh.

"I was sitting with some friends after my visit had been cancelled when this Protestant woman who was visiting her protesting brother approached me and started to talk. It was daring of her. At one point she said, 'It's alright for the men to protest, but who will pay the bills at the end of the week?' And I thought there was more similar than different in our lives."

Ideological differences not

withstanding, the day-to-day reality for most women is harsh. For many "mother's little helpers" — tranquillisers — are the only way to blot out the daily suffering. One psychiatrist described working class areas in Belfast and Derry as "floating in a cloud of Valium." The number of women in psychiatric hospitals in Northern Ireland is 2,82 per thousand compared with Britain's 1,90.

I leave Mary Nellis's house to walk among nationalist Bogside graffiti. Street language is a daily reminder of the ongoing war. On a mural glorifying the IRA someone had written "Fuck your mother." The young man who sees me to Mary Nellis's house says a British soldier had written this.

In the political reality of Northern Ireland with high female unemployment, the huge expense of visiting relatives in jail and daily harassment by police and soldiers — feminism must seem trivial by comparison. Reunification is not seen as ideal even by committed republicans like Mary Nellis. "At the end of the day, if the British leave, Protestant working class women may have the same struggle as we do," she says. But when I ask her whether a united Ireland is no more than Utopia, she smiles and says, "If you take this away, you may as well put me in a hole in the ground."

Heather Cavagan is nearly 21 and has never had a job. Here she tries to come to terms with unemployment

Unknown and jobless

NOT ONCE did I ever contemplate the prospect of being unemployed. While at school, the emphasis was put on higher or further education and I don't recall a single girl leaving until she had either a place at university or found employment.

That was nearly three years ago and here I find myself rapidly approaching the golden age of twenty-one and still I have no job. I find it hard to believe that it's me who signs on every other week and that my only public appearance of the month is with three and a half million others who make up the nation's unemployment figures. But there I am, four A-levels and a year at university behind me, and I'm still in the lottery waiting to win a place with some firm or other.

I lied. I did once think about being unemployed but I never expected to experience the trauma, because that's what it is. This is simply the worst time of my life so far and things don't seem to be picking up.

Having read economics at university I realise that it isn't only the Conservatives who are to blame for the present state of affairs. There's more than one way to solve unemployment, so I resolve not to get bitter and push all the blame rightwards. In fact I am no longer interested in how all this happened. I'm more concerned with the effects it's having on me as a person. That's what I find most frightening.

When I first signed on it was all a big joke. I was a student expecting to return to college in October. However, the powers that be evidently decided differently and I received a card telling me, in essence, not to bother returning with the rest of my year. OK, that wasn't so amusing, but it still was no joke. I was one of the world. I still had my four A-levels and thus armed I started to hunt for a job.

First I went for banking, but they don't seem to like women to climb too high on that ladder, so I turned to what I'd always wanted to do — counselling. "Sorry," they said. "We're not taking university drop-outs this year." "What are you taking?" I replied. "We're not taking anyone really," they thought about freezing but it was pointed out to me that you have to be known to do that. I am one of this country's great unknowns.

The Job Centres proved a dead loss, in more ways than one, and most adverts in the paper weren't much better. It's nearly six months since I signed on and the merry-go-round continues to turn and I'm still not on it. There seems to be a conspiracy amongst employers in that if you don't already have a job they won't give you one. Give a dog a bad name and all that.

So I sit here, in one of the nation's employment black spots, waiting for a job. My bike 'cos it's got a puncture and I don't have the money to foot the repair bill. The train or the bus would be even more costly, so that rules out any movement to look for jobs.

Physically I'm bearing up although I do seem to have had a cold since last September. I've gained a little weight and my face has a few more zits than usual; my hair is not as healthy as it used to be and I've lost inclination to put myself around an aerobics hall. No doubt my knee will seize up through lack of use, given more time.

Most of the strain is mental. I no longer look forward to the weekend because there is nothing to do. I'd love to turn to drink or drugs, just for a little relief, but I cannot afford to do this. Besides, I respect my body too much to abuse it in this way. I'm tired of struggling my mind on Dostoevsky, anyway, and frankly I'm losing the will to carry on.

I live with my parents and brother and sister, who are sick of the sight of me. I agree with them, but it's just not possible to live anywhere else. From time to time we have a big fight and they all accuse me of being a parasite, and in a way I agree with them, but what can I do? It's difficult playing happy families continually but if we could just play some of the time it would help.

I think that I'm one of the lucky ones. I know of one bloke who chose not to return; his parents responded by kicking him out of the house. Down at the dole office I see men with young children whose wives are supporting the family, and in their eyes there is very little light. They have no hope.

All of my friends are at college or are working and I see them only rarely. When we do get together it turns out to be a pretty depressing experience. They all have such full lives and, despite such full student grants, such full bank accounts. At least compared with me they are having a veritable ball.

ORAL traditions, once committed to print, lose something of their intrinsic quality. Those passed on by the Indian Nootka published in Ann Cameron's *Daughters of Copper Woman* (Women's Press, £2.95) however, manage to preserve their simplicity of theme and directness of expression. They lose nothing of the sense of inherent wisdom, courage and foresight characterised in the society of women from Vancouver Island.

Parallels with the Christian and ancient Greek traditions give these enchanting myths an air of universality. *Copper Woman*, the symbolic matriarch of the Nootka, creates man from her own spit, and with him and the rulers of the heavens, sons and daughters are born to populate the four corners of the earth. The Old Woman's timeless wisdom and knowledge was thus passed on and preserved, the female influence remaining dominant throughout.

Femininity is associated with gentleness, perception, loneliness and a sense of mission. Its strength is the only and successful weapon used against the male aggressor. Yet men are not hated and shunned. While feared, they are seen as subjects who need nurturing and re-education.

The message is clear: "We must reach out to our sisters, all of our sisters, and ask them to share their truth with us, offer to share our truth

Msprint

with them. . . . Only then can "those who need to find courage, peace, truth and love . . . learn that these things are inside all of us and can be supported by the truth of women."

Sadly, much of the wisdom of age is lost in the collection of essays by the American writers Barbara MacDonald and Cynthia Rich. Ironically, *Look Me in the Eye* (Women's Press, £2.95) sets out to show how the process of growing old can, and should be both dignified and enjoyable. Instead it gets stuck on an egocentric platform from which the authors, so recently handed the megaphone of Liberation, can proclaim their lesbianism loud and often.

In spite of the tedium of this repetition, many astute and valuable observations are made: that ageism is a product of the fear and ignorance of both young and old; that the older women in our society may be as interested in the Women's Movement, and certainly as well motivated as the younger members, who tend to be its driving force. The book attempts to show that contributions to and influence on the Women's Movement should be sought as much from the aging and old as

from the younger enthusiasts. Ageism is a prejudice, which like any other must be corroded. If replaced by the belief that Old Age is a quality and a goal to be aimed at rather than avoided, then progress will have made positive strides.

The Americanness of this collection of essays is as nothing compared with that of the collection of short stories by Toni Cade Bambara. *The Sea Birds Are Still Alive* (Women's Press, £3.95) there is a hint of J. D. Salinger in the style, it is frequently lost in the obscurity and violence of the language.

Each story relates the oppression of various groups of women. Set mainly in black America, the heroines struggle, apparently in vain, against the unhearing, unseeing, unfeeling male aggressor. In *The Long Night* a woman cowers petrified, "Stuck horns, screaming, scurrying of feet against the slush, but silence." Silence symbolic of the silent response of men to women and their cry for freedom. At least I presume this is the sentiment being conveyed: with lines like, "Up too close to the screen, surreal, jello-like around the edges like Superman. . . . No. She would never tell. Strike. She would strike. Someone or three would go down in the go down." It was difficult to be sure.

Hilary Tagg

It is yet another of those exquisite instruments of torture New Yorkers have invented for themselves



AMERICAN DIARY

Linda Blandford

ANYONE who has ever doubted the infinite and complex snobbery of America, could well be directed to the little-known second section of the Sunday New York Times, under its rather mousey title of Follow-Up on the News.

This is the home of the full and eagerly perused columns that more socially desirable couples announce their engagements and weddings, submitted for publication in writing, three weeks in advance. Many are the disappointments; there cannot be room, alas, for all the blessed and socially aspiring. It is yet another of those exquisite instruments of torture invented for themselves: the proof of faith through acceptability.

It goes without saying that there is not exactly a plethora of smiling black faces amid all those serene and soft-focused beauties whose "nuptials" have just taken place.

Nor are there in *Tatler*, you might say. The New York Times, on the other hand, does at least pretend to represent this huge and varied city as a whole.

No-one ever said that the New York Times didn't care — it is, in that respect, the greatest newspaper in the land. Unfortunately, its heart may lie in Harlem but its senior editors sleep on more desirable stretches of Manhattan. There are no missives in the Society News office as well attended to as those hailing from on high with the salutation: "Please use this."

Some inclusions begin to make sense only as the story unfolds. "Miss Mobley has Nuptials in Oklahoma," for instance, a recent inclusion, was confusing at first in spite of the announcement that "Her father is a Tulsa real-estate developer and chairman of five banks in Oklahoma and Nebraska." The last paragraph revealed that the bridegroom, Michael Armand Hammer, "is an executive of the Occidental Petroleum Corporation in Los Angeles, of which his grandfather, Dr Armand Hammer, is chairman and chief executive officer." Of course.

There is these days an insistence on the fullest possible details of everyone's professional status. Mr Mobley's connection with five banks is untoward. Even step-fathers must have their moment as in this word from one Trine Bumiller: "Her father is a cinematographer and producer. Her mother, Gunhild Rose, is a nurse. Her stepfather is a partner in the Cincinnati law firm of Frost & Jacobs."

Occasionally, though, a se-

nario comes along that is actually heartwarming. Randall Leroy Kennedy, for example, an assistant professor at the Harvard Law School, plans to be married in June. He graduated from Princeton, was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford and received a law degree from Yale. "His father, read the last sentence, "is a retired postal worker." That a tribute that is to the Great Promise of America.

It gets more complicated these days because of the mothers who are so much keener to have their professional tribute. It is worth reproducing this announcement in full: the favour would surely be lost in precis. It concerns Clifford A. Kornfield who was wed in the Hollywood Hilton Hotel in Florida. "Mr Kornfield, an associate in the New York law firm of Proskauer, Rose, Goetz & Mendelsohn, graduated from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and the Brooklyn Law School. His father is a sales representative and his mother, Esther Kornfield, is an associate sales representative of World Wide Publications in New York." Oh, what a legend in its own time. Such a one appeared a few weeks ago; there are even those who have photographed it and mailed it to friends. It concerns two students at the University of Pennsylvania; please read on.

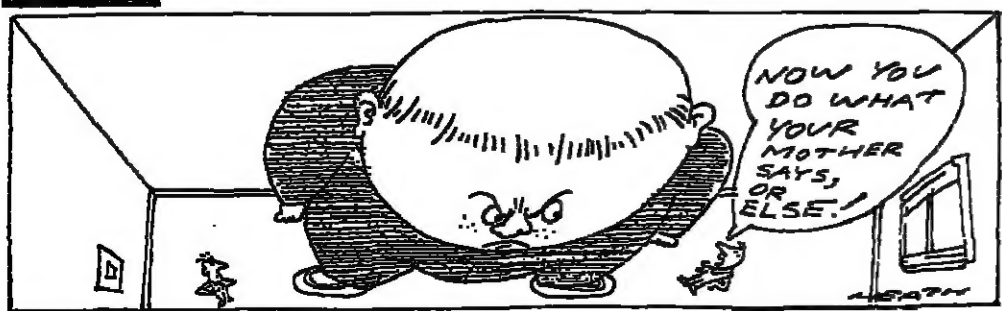
"Letitia Copeland Biddle, a daughter of James Biddle of Philadelphia and Louisa Copeland Duesmeling of Washington, was married yesterday to Samuel Matthew Blitzer, the son of Mr and Mrs Daniel Hollander Blitzer of Roslyn Harbor, L. I. Rabbi Emily Korzenik performed the ceremony at the home of the bride's father."

"Andalusia, the Biddle family home where the couple were married, was built by Nicholas Biddle, the bride's great-great-grandfather, and has been cited as the most outstanding example of Greek Revival architecture in this country. . . . The bride's father was formerly curator of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's American Wing and past president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She is a granddaughter of the late Lamont du Pont Copeland, president and chairman of E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company. The bride's mother is the wife of Robert W. Duesmeling, until recently the United States Ambassador to Surinam."

"Mr Blitzer's father is director of the vacation fund for the New York Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. His mother, Shirley Blitzer, is president of Se More Woman Ltd, a New York clothing manufacturer."

Now suppose that this is to be made into a TV movie: five New York literary tributes awarded to the best script of who said what to whom at dinner that night at Andalusia when Seth and Letty broke their good news. Postcards by Feb 6 please. The judge's decision is final and, perhaps, unprintable.

BABY By Michael Heath



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ARTS GUARDIAN

Waldemar Januszczak reports from a corner of London that is teeming with artists and new galleries to show off their work

Hackney marshes blossom

THE London Borough of Hackney claims to have the highest concentration of artists in the world. What is certain is that the area sizzles with real and often frustrated artistic energy. There are some parts of Hackney where it's unsafe to go out of the house at night without a paintbrush. The old warehouses make splendid, spacious studios and the rents are fairly cheap. But because most of the commercial outlets for art are in the West End, and because Hackney artists tend to be of the kind that is allergic to over-commercialisation, the artistic energy of Hackney has often seemed to be going to waste.

However, the past year or two has seen the opening of several new galleries in the area, proudly alternative, and usually boasting the amazingly inconvenient opening hours which are the true sign of an independent space. Interim Art, for instance, is only open Wednesday to Thursday 3-7, and Saturday 2-6. Even if you get there on time you may well have trouble finding it, as it is on the other two-up, two-down terrace houses in the street. And yet over the past six months the gallery has mounted a series of genuinely ambitious international exhibitions.

Interim Art specialises in what might be called weird theme shows. The first was devoted to dogs and that was followed by one devoted to guns. Now the gallery's first one-person show has opened and it features paintings and sculptures by the numerous young Scottish Expressionists. Mario Rossi, in common with several of his fellow Glasgow School pupils — who currently make up the most coherent group of young painters in Britain — Rossi sometimes gives the appearance of not being entirely in control of his paint brush, and he starts as his own allegories.

The aim of these narrative self-portraits (Rossi shows himself as St George slaying the dragon, Christ buckling under the cross, Orpheus swapping his lyre for a violin and whipping up a tornado with his music) is not to achieve an individual likeness but rather to place the figure of the artist as a hero in modern life. Rossi sees the artist as a powerful medium, through whom the world's intellectual, religious and natural forces flow.

His brushstrokes swirl in floods around the canvas as if they were iron filings responding to an irresistible magnet. His colours are the sorts of oranges and reds that are usually found on the inside of a kiln. Even the floor of the gallery has been painted so that the whole exhibition appears to be in flames around the figure of the artist locked in battle with the elements.

It is of course a ridiculous Wagnerian notion, this vision of Rossi as a kind of Hercules with a brush, the keeper of man's savage self. We haven't seen his like in British art since the demise of Robert Rauschenberg. But the turbulence Rossi whips up in his paintings is real enough to blind you to the occasional clumsiness of his execution.

While the spirit of Rossi tries to set fire to Interim Art in another of Hackney's alternative spaces, the long-established Matt's Gallery, Richard Wilson is attempting to rebuild a blue whale.

The original model of the blue whale in London's Natural History Museum was completed in 1938. It is 93 feet long and weighs some 100 tons. This much I've learned from the booklet which accompanies the Richard Wilson installation, and which also tells how the painters completing the swaying model whale could only work for short spells at a time before they began feeling seasick. I know the feeling from looking up at the massive rib which now hangs perilously at the centre of the installation, and from staring at the giant whale's tail emerging from the wall.

Essentially what Wilson has done in this eerie, and very effective room sculpture, is to suggest the huge, mythological presence of the beast, while also revealing its man-made, industrial workings. This ghostly blue whale is suspended somewhere between the factory and the sea. We are not outside the whale but inside, taking a Jonah's-eye-view of its insides. I mean it as a compliment when I say that I couldn't wait to get out of the place.

The chief protagonists of Stephen Willatt's pictures must feel the same way about the tower blocks they live in. Willatt's Hackney series is a kind of spirit if not in fact his art seems to prowl around the tower blocks after dark, collecting bits of refuse for the collage, searching out the more flamboyant inhabitants of the tenements, plucking them out of the crowd, and giving them their 15 minutes of fame and artistic attention.

One such Cinderella has dark Spanish good looks and

a nice line in gold necklaces which she wears to work in the office during the day. But at night, in a cunning reversal of the fairy tale, Cinderella throws off her riches and dons a set of black punk rag, pulls a black leather biker's cap over her eyes, swaps her "Have a Nice Day" expression for one which warns you to back off if you don't want your hand bitten and, hey presto, smart young office girl becomes a denizen of the night.

Willatt's show is called Doppelgänger and I suppose it is trying to say that everyone of us has a fantasy life which we keep locked up during the daytime. The stronger the prison — and this is what the tower blocks arranged like rabbit hutch in every picture symbolise — the deeper and stranger the fantasy.

Where the exhibition falls short is in achieving any real psychological depth in its investigation. The art is too smooth and so are the people. We seem to be dealing with a fashionable fantasy of darkness rather than the darkness itself. Putting on the latest black leather look when you come home at night hardly constitutes a major personality change. In the end you feel that the daytime conformism of Willatt's Doppelgänger is much more significant than the nighttime rebellions they enact in front of the bedroom mirror. They remain rebels without claws.

Stephen Willatt, at the Lisson Gallery, Bell Street, NW1, until February 9; Mario Rossi, at Interim Art, 21 Beck Road, SE until February 16; Richard Wilson, at Matt's Gallery, 10 Mariello Street, SE, until January 27.



Stephen Willatt's 'The Vampires'

Nancy Banks-Smith on a doctor's complaint

Just the ticker

NOTHING is more terrifying than appearing on TV. How waves of red and white sweat over you, like an octopus communicating with its kind. How, like an octopus, you seem to have three of everything and two left over. How gladly would you slip a friendly scene shifter fifty quid to break your leg or all of them.

Doctors' Dilemmas (BBC 2) uses a cast of actors and a real doctor to illustrate each ethical problem. This week: Should A Company Doctor Tell?

The actors came on all eager for the treat. Like Lewis Carroll's oysters their coats were brushed, their faces washed, their shoes were clean and neat. The eye rested on their nattiness with affection. One played a high-powered sales manager. He smoked as he phoned as he drove. Now and then he clutched his chest and groaned a bit. His managing director's greeting was all too apposite: "Ah Brian, we'd given you up for dead."

It was all ticking along nicely until Brian decided to take himself and his chest-crushing pain to the company doctor. And here one sat up smugly, startled at the unexpected turn of events. In the doctor's surgery, a shifty looking character in a white coat was rocking away like someone who had mugged Whistler's Mother for her chair.

Here was a patent impostor. Probably the real doctor was even now struggling in the cupboard with Mrs Whistler.

But this was the real doctor, his little idiosyncrasies wildly multiplied by the fly's eye of television. It was poor dear Brian and the silver-haired managing director who were lying.

In the Doctors' Dilemmas I have happened to see, the doctor has never—how could he?—done himself justice. Do not, even if tempted by small cheques and large promises, consent to appear on the same show as children, animals or actors.

It all led one to speculate somewhat glumly on what a raw deal the real thing got on television. The cover of next week's TV Times says, coincidentally, Doctors' Dilemmas. Three doctors are staring intently at a lung X-ray. Each, for extra assurance, is wearing a stethoscope. Your chest, you feel sure, is safe in their hands. They are all actors.

The Exercise (BBC 1) was transmitted only a fortnight after the startling first Contact (BBC 2) and suffered from the contrast. Not, probably as much as I suffered. Magnificent Welsh scenery and melodrama. It came, as plays seem to, lately, more to a stop than a conclusion. One army cadet shot another but why or with what or wherefore, I would not care to say.

Alarms And Excursions (Central) was, like the relief of Khartoum, a fairly far-doomed foray up the Nile with Max Hastings asking the questions. And sometimes regretting it. "Is it the way you expected it to be?" he asked the fellow traveller. "Exactly," he replied drily. "I've seen it several times before."

Unchained melody

Edward Greenfield welcomes a new collection of Ravel songs on record

NO genre of music gains more while losing less on record than song. Yet even the most delectable song records from the finest singers have a depressing way of disappearing from the catalogue all too soon. Judging by the latest lists, the big companies are now putting their faith in complete collections, and with composers as sharply contrasted as Beethoven, Ravel, and Sibelius there is much to be said for such storehouses of treasures.

The Ravel collection that has just appeared from EMI is a special delight (HMV EX 27 0138, 3 discs). With a composer whose range in song-form (or melodie) might have seemed

limited it was an excellent plan to have six singers, each given set repertoire. So Teresa Berganza as well as Michel Plasseau conducting the Paris Orchestra Chamber Ensemble) has two songs inspired by Spain, the Vocalise in the form of an Habanera and the Chanson espagnole from the set of Five Chants populaires.

Likewise Felicity Lott, as well as singing the Melodie songs and the Marot Epigrams very beautifully, presents the Chanson espagnole (actually Ye banks and Braes) in a very convincing Scots accent. For all the shallowness of Mady Mesplès voice it works well in the Melodie populaire Grequesque, while Jessye Nor-

man, rich-toned if not quite as characterful as usual, has the Chansons madecaises as well as lesser-known songs.

It is the contribution of the two men that provides the sharpest illumination. José van Dam magnificently dark-toned in the Don Quichotte songs and the Melodie Hebraïques (making Kaddish thrillingly powerful in its agony of mourning), while Gabriel Bacquier, twinkling in Figure tonée, has such point songs as the Elitiores matoriales.

Drawing the whole collection together is the superb piano accompaniment of Dalton Baldwin, whose long experience, accompanying Gérard Souzay, here blossoms in extra subtlety and with

such contrasted singers. Van Dam for example recently recorded the Don Quichotte songs on Boulez's excellent disc of Ravel's orchestral accompanied settings (CBS M 39023), but with Baldwin accompanying his expression is far freer and more detailed.

The imaginative playing of the accompanist, Hartmut Hens, what above all gives Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau's new complete collection of Beethoven songs its extra range and zest (HMV EX 2700 423, three discs). Fischer-Dieskau recorded them all with Jörg Demus for DG's Beethoven Edition in 1970, but the new performances are far more spontaneous-sounding with more light and shade. The

pianists sea-leaps in the Song of the Flea are made witty, while over and over again whether in charm or Winterreise-like gravity one appreciates that though Beethoven's miniatures are often just chippings from the bench, they almost all have gold in them.

That also applies to his folk-song settings, done as a profitable chore for Thomas, the Scots publisher, but full of originality. Fischer-Dieskau has recorded a new selection with Yehudi Menuhin and Heinrich Schiff as well as Holl accompanying him (HMV EX 27 0045 1). The results are enjoyable but more robust than charming, and I would still recommend in preference Robert White's sparkling collection

of Irish and Scots songs (RCA RL 1 3417).

Fischer-Dieskau's new collection of Richard Strauss Lieder (DG 413 455-1, three discs) is far more limited than the big six-disc box he did for HMV, which might still be around as an import. The voice shows more strain here than in Beethoven, but the magic is just as intense, with Wolfgang Sawallisch at the piano challenging the singer to give performances of revelatory depth and intensity even in songs as well-known as Morgen. It is a pity that such favourites as Zueignung, Die Nacht und Walselikeit, are omitted, but there is much to delight.

The magnificent box of the complete Sibelius songs, due from Decca next month, over 80 of them on five discs (411 739-1), is even more a hoard of buried treasure. Sibelius' unknown masterpieces like Jubal and Teodora surfacing between much that is unselfconsciously tuneful and charming. As with Beethoven, Sibelius' miniatures are often intensely illuminating of the man. Tom Kraus, ideal choice of baritone, still in golden voice, is accompanied by Irwin Gage in most of the songs, by Carlos Bonell in two guitar songs including Shakespeare's Come away with Death, while Elisabeth Söderström is accompanied by Vladimir Ashkenazy in a dozen women's songs, ravishingly done.

Concert dates

Tippett/Hickox/LSO/Crossley (Festival Hall, tonight, 7.30 pm). Sir Michael Tippett contributes to the Tippett Festival celebrating his 80th birthday, conducting his Symphony no. 4. Paul Crossley is soloist in the Tippett Piano Concerto, preceded by a new work, Moving Into Aquarius, written jointly in tribute by Thea Musgrave and Richard Rodney Bennett.



Michael Tippett

Pay/London Sinfonietta/Crossley St John's, tomorrow, 7.30 pm). In its latest series, 1985-plus, the Sinfonietta here presents two remarkable, the first complete performance of Nicholas Maw's Life, Studies and Scenes From A Novel by György Kurtág.

Oliver Knussen/Nash Ensemble (Wigmore, Saturday, 7 pm and 7.45). The current Nash series introduces each concert with a performance at 7 pm of one of Berlioz's Séquences, this one no. 8 for violin, played by Marcia Crayford. The main programme has Mozart's Clarinet Trio and Mendelssohn's D minor Piano Trio framing songs by Respighi and Dallapiccola and the rare piano and wind Quintet of Poncehelli.

Jorge Bolet (Elizabeth Hall, Tuesday, 7.45 pm). Bolet turns from Liszt to Debussy (12 preludes selected from both books) as well as Chopin (the Preludes Opus 28).

Edward Greenfield

RONNIE SCOTT'S

John Fordham

Chico Freeman

CHICO FREEMAN is regarded as one of the foremost black saxophone heroes to have emerged in the post-Coltrane generation, so it is extraordinary to find what is a traditional player, he is at heart, particularly on ballads (like the Coltrane audible on the Duke Ellington sessions). Freeman appears so fastidious in demeanour and playing habits that he prompts unlikely comparisons. He and his band may be utterly dissimilar in idiom, mood and dynamics from the MJO, yet both approach a performance with certainty and the accuracy of jewellers. Not for them Thelonious Monk's advice to Abbey Lincoln: "Sing it wrong."

The Freeman band is, however, more exciting in a club than on a concert stage despite its impeccable professionalism. Their impact is widened by the presence of the pianist Mark Thompson, who dropped a number of spectacular hints that he can combine the old world and the new in a way that Don Pullen never quite manages.

Thompson played a stunning solo on the thunderous uptempo tune, Each One Teach One. With drum-like hammerings, wild skids up the keyboard producing very vigorous effects, delicate, dewy phrases and stamping chords he seemed to combine McCoy Tyner, John Lewis and Monk within a single solo.

Less successful parts of the repertoire are those rather precious, ruminative early Herbie Hancock-style pieces (like Undercurrents) which feature sultry bass riffs, soulful horn line and a lot of suspended time.

It is on ballads that Freeman is heard at his best, allowing hard, sneaky phrases to dissolve into rip-



Chico Freeman — picture by Alan Titmus

ples. He finished the set by getting the audience to clap in time and charged into a mid-tempo blues straight out of the Dexter Gordon stable.

The bassist, Cecil McBee, was an ingenious collaborator as usual, and the support band, Outback, operating in a less scientific fashion, succeeded in whipping up quite a storm of its own. The tenor saxophonist, Tim Saunders, played fit to crack a piston.

WAREHOUSE

Michael Billington

Andromache

THEY were squatting on the floor of the Donmar Warehouse for Cheek by Jowl's production of Andromache. It only goes to prove that, whatever our national companies may think, there is a palpable public hunger for these monumental tragedies of Racine. But though I greatly applaud the pluck and daring of this versatile young troupe in giving this play its British professional premiere a mere 318 years after its Paris debut, I admit that Racine poses problems they didn't encounter with Thackeray and Shakespeare.

First, there is the translation. George Steiner wrote of Racine that "in no art is the principle of love more com-

pletely that of style". And here David Bryer, eschewing a literal rendering of the original alexandrines, comes up with a version that veers rather wildly between the high-flown and the colloquial. On the one hand, there are lines like "To be so cautious I find fastidious" (an unmusical repetition of sounds); on the other, phrases like "Go on, off you go, run before I call you back" which suggests a mother sending her son out the park rather than Hermione despatching Orestes to kill Pyrrhus. I don't underestimate the problem: I just don't think Bryer has solved it.

Then again, there is the background and ethos of the play. Taking place in the aftermath of the Trojan War, it presents us with a terrifying chain of unrequited passion: Orestes loves Hermione who in turn loves Pyrrhus who is in love with his widowed Trojan prisoner Andromache who is still faithful to the memory of the dead Hector.

Racine develops the situation with merciless clarity, presents the characters with agonising moral choices (Andromache can only save her son's life by marrying a man she detests and shows acute understanding of the kinship of love and hate. But the action depends on the retributive agony of a post-war situation and putting the men into modern, all white Greek naval uniforms and the women into forties cocktail-dresses and their hair into bangs doesn't convey the sense of a moral jungle. The brute logic of unrequited passion grips one; and Decian Donnellan's production, played on a black-and-white zodiacal circle, contains fine performances from Amanda Harris as an Andromache full of steely, unforgiving passion, from Sadie Stanger as a deadly Hermione fixing her putative lover with lethal carmine-lipped smiles and from Dun-

can Bell as an arrogant Pyrrhus in pearl-grey cravat.

The production intelligently suggests it is the confidants who time and again see impending disaster but are powerless to prevent it and gives one a clear sense of Racine's interlocking sexual intrigues. What I miss is the feeling of passion bursting through the strict confines of an intricate verse form like mad and will crashing through its pen.

FESTIVAL HALL

David Ward

Ewan MacColl

FEW of us are fortunate enough to have birthday parties graced by the presence of both a didgeridoo and Arthur Scargill. But Ewan MacColl, 70 on Friday, is special and the growing pipe and the union boss plus a Festival Hall full of friends and musicians saluted a man who has been singing, writing and shouting "up the workers" for more than half a century. Appropriately enough, the proceeds from the celebration went to the miners' cause.

Nights of homage can be sickly and soggy. This one wasn't partly because of some surprises (Scargill revealed, after presenting the birthday boy with a miners' lamp, that at 15 he had been hanged and blues organiser Ian Campbell (a searing version of Buddy Can You Spare A Dime?) and Frankie Armstrong

There were mining songs from Johnny Handle and a big ballad, The Cruel Mother from Gordan McCulloch, whose unaccompanied, passionate like that of Kevin Mitchell, thrilled the hall.

Martin Carthy sang with a tie, tuning fork, style and wit but without guitar and Aly Bain's fiddle brought new agony for The Flowers Of The Forest. The night concluded with the Clan MacColl, Peggy Seeger sang The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face and Ewan bowed to the inevitable with Dirty Old Town. But there's life in the old dog yet: his new song specially composed for the current troubles was full of bite and venom.

Mike Harding compered, Neil Kinnock sent a letter of congratulation and Norman Buchanan proved that there is at least one British MP brave enough to confess a passion for folk music.

Elizabeth Hall
Frank Barker

Marius May

BROUGHT up on the Thibaud/Cortot recording of Franck's Violin Sonata I have never fully accepted its cello version, but I must admit that the rapturous performance by Marius May and his equally committed and subtle pianist Roger Vignoles almost convinced me at last.

My reservation only applied to the final allegretto, which cries out for the lighter string tone. Elsewhere both players realised all its lyrical ardour and restless introspection while keeping textures delicately transparent and avoiding all trace of sentimentality.

They were no less persuasive in another transcription, the Schumann Adagio and Allegro originally written for the horn. Here, too, May revealed a rewarding range of expression, expansively singing in the first movement and joyously vigorous in the second. One was struck again by the rare combination of thoughtfulness and spontaneity displayed by both players.

Unaccompanied, May showed in Bach's C Major Suite that he has successfully developed from child prodigy into a young artist of truly communicative maturity. The Sarabande had a deeply felt stillness, the inveterate dancer an infectious gaiety skilfully kept within classical bounds. Two Paganini Caprices, thrown off with dazzling virtuosity, showed a keen sense of wit

NT

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Wriggling in a vortex of decline

The Government frequently claims that it is holding public expenditure constant in "real terms" (that is, after removing the effects of inflation). And this is a cornerstone of its economic policy because, if spending is held steady at a time when the economy is expanding, then it falls as a proportion of the nation's income, enabling tax cuts to be financed out of increased growth. That, at least, is the theory. In fact — as a reading between the lines of yesterday's spending white paper makes clear — the Government is woefully failing to keep spending within its own targets.

If the expected outcome for the financial year 1984/85 is compared with what was planned a year ago, there is a spending overrun of £2.8 billion. If allowance is made for the fact that yesterday's document (curiously) presumed the miners' strike to have ended in December, then the real overrun must be around £3.5 billion. Admittedly, this figure includes £1 billion for extra debt interest which the Government excludes from its own definition of public spending — but that exclusion is increasingly difficult to justify. After all, money has to be found from somewhere to pay the extra interest. And it was this Government which pledged itself to reduce public borrowing. As it turns out, interest on Government debt is the fastest rising of all areas of public spending; it has grown from £3.4 billion in 1979/80 to £8.5 billion this year.

This year's spending figures have, of course, been influenced by the aforementioned effects of the miners' strike. On a longer comparison expenditure in real terms (excluding debt interest) has risen by 9.3 per cent since 1979/80 or 11 per cent after removing asset sales (which in Treasury accounting terms count as reductions in public spending). Is this what the Government means by "freezing" spending? Moreover, over the same period, expenditure as a percentage of the economy

has actually increased from 39½ per cent to 42½ per cent despite increased economic growth. On the Government's own extrapolation, spending will only come down to the inherited figure of 39½ per cent by 1987/88. And that rests on the frail assumption that the Treasury unexpectedly gets expenditure under control.

The sharp increase in expenditure which we are now experiencing would be highly desirable if it were being spent positively in a way that increased wealth and jobs. But the Government declines to take the initiative in bringing about a concerted reflation of key European economies, and refuses to spend even £1 or £2 billion a year extra on vital improvements to the country's ailing infrastructure (supported by a wide spectrum of the population including CBI, TUC, and the NEDC). It has even put a moratorium on its spending to boost micro-technology at a moment when Germany and France are investing twice or three times as much as the UK.

The tragic fact is that the overrun in spending since 1979/80 is entirely accounted for by the biggest expansion of defence spending in peacetime and by the cost of failing to produce new jobs — that is, the burgeoning cost of social security. Since 1979/80 spending in real terms on defence has increased by 23 per cent (or 29 per cent since 1978/79). Even more glaring, the increase in the nation's bills for social security (itself 30 per cent of total spending) will have increased by £2.4 billion (in real terms) between 1978 and 1985 — which alone counts for virtually all of the £2.9 billion overrun in all spending. Among the manifest losers are housing (down 68 per cent), overseas aid (down 17 per cent) and spending by the Departments of Industry, Energy, Trade and Employment (down 26 per cent).

Yesterday's future plans offer scant consolation. The Government repeats its perennial boast that spending will be held in real terms; but hardly anyone believes it. All we are offered is yet more cuts in programmes (which might have boosted wealth) in order to make up for a higher social security bill which is the direct consequence of the government's failure to generate more jobs. Putting it crudely, cutting back on spending on high technology — the seedbed of the future — to pay for higher unemployment is a recipe for sucking

the country into a self-propelling vortex of decline.

What we need now is not tax cuts (financed only by selling off public enterprises) to give us more money to buy imports; we need a sharp increase in spending to produce wealth and jobs.

No need to rub faces in a deal

The signals from the National Union of Mineworkers are ambiguous in the extreme. The executive announce that they will all take part in future negotiations. The triumvirate of Scargill, McGahey and Heathfield will be supplemented by assorted moderates and right wingers. Shock snub to Arthur? Mr Scargill announces both that he is now ready for "unconditional" talks, but that there is no movement whatsoever on the question of supposedly "uneconomic" pits. Mr Peter Heathfield suggests secret talks about talks with the coal board. There he agrees to an "open agenda" — except that he is not prepared to see what are now referred to euphemistically as "costs of production" on that open agenda. End of talks about talks.

Conspiracy theorists insist that the NUM is playing a subtle if desperate game — attempting to convince strikers that an honourable settlement is just around the corner, thus stemming the back-to-work movement while surrendering nothing. It is a possibility, but not much of one. Consider: the union is coming apart at the seams. So is the strike. The word "defeat" passed Mr Scargill's lips at the weekend. When an elite regiment starts to disintegrate amid weariness and doubt a degree of confusion ensues. The most likely reason for the chaotic signals from Sheffield is that the union is temporarily in some sad degree of inner chaos.

There is a mirror-image conspiracy theory which runs as follows: the Government and the board do not want a negotiated settlement. So they insist upon an impossible act of self-flagellation from Mr Scargill first. There are, without the slightest doubt, men — and women — around the cabinet table who would, in their heart of hearts, like to see Mr Scargill not merely humbled but grovelling. In the real

world they would be well advised to settle for a little humbling, and most ministers know as much. The strike can no longer be won and any negotiated settlement must involve a considerable row-back from Mr Scargill's original position. The longer the dispute drags on, broken backed, the bigger the concessions the union will eventually have to make. Mr David Hunt, the minister who handles coal at the Department of Energy, says a private assurance that "unconditional talks" means just that, would be enough to permit a new round of talks. When the NUM executive meets tomorrow that unambiguous assurance should be forthcoming — if only as an acid test of the professed good will of a Government which has often showed more relish for a fight than for its necessary resolution.

The ermine Channel

Today sees the start of experimental television coverage of the House of Lords. It is being launched at a time when the upper house has been getting a rather good press and winning some unlikely plaudits. The build-up to today's first transmissions has been of amused but largely uncritical deference towards the second chamber. On the one hand, today's peers are being presented as a lovable band of upper-class eccentrics straight out of the billiard-rooms of Blandings and Brideshead. On the other they are depicted as a hard-working, if elderly, group of keen political operators who have adapted their traditional assembly to meet modern constitutional needs. Well, okay. Yes, there are indeed some amusing rituals in the Lords, and some choice old buffers to snigger at. And, equally, there are occasionally some impressive debates. But don't let's get too carried away with sentimentality. Just because foreigners are going to get good television entertainment from our elderly Disneyland, or just because Lord Stockton or Lord Scarman will produce the periodic oratorical tour de force, it does not mean that the existing House of Lords deserves our cheers.

It has contrived to avoid outright abolition in the twentieth century by keeping one step ahead of its pursuers. It has always managed to reform itself just

enough to draw the sting of those who would destroy it. The vulnerability of a hereditary house in the age of universal suffrage was blunted by the introduction of life peers, and then, until Mrs Thatcher changed it, by the abolition in practice of hereditary titles. And now it has kept ahead of the game by opening the doors to television. This skilful strategy has, of course, been aided by other factors. The lure of a peerage remains a potent weapon of patronage. And the continuation of an electoral system which places almost unchallengeable power in the hands of governments elected on minority votes means that any second chamber, however composed, retains an important role. But, as we now watch and listen to the peers debate, it should not be forgotten that theirs is still an unelected house. This is not just a charming anachronism. It is a political tradition which is in need of reform.

Yet to speak of reform of the House of Lords on this scale is meaningless without considering parliamentary reform more generally. In this regard, the arrival of the television cameras can be an important catalyst. It is widely believed at Westminster that where the peers have led, as they also did with the installation of electric lighting, the Commons will one day follow. We hope that this will be the case. The televising of Parliament is widely supported by public opinion; by two to one according to the most recent MORI findings. In an age of almost universal television ownership, coverage of Parliament is part of political accountability. But the cameras will change Westminster. They will mean that speakers keep their contributions short and to the easily digestible point. They will mean that boorish behaviour will be recognised as a political liability. They will mean that more MPs will attend important debates. And they will encourage the process of getting rid of elitist anachronisms and conventions from parliamentary procedure. That will not be comfortable for many MPs, but it is both desirable and, ultimately, inevitable too. The conventional wisdom now has it that elections are won and lost on television. If so, it will be good for democratic politics that Parliament and television are brought together if Westminster can get out of the 19th century in time for the 21st, it will be no bad thing, but whether the unelected upper house should remain is another matter altogether.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How a united front brought down the Nazi monster

Sir, — Surely Mr Skelding (Letters, January 17) distorts the facts as much as he accuses Lady Young of doing when he claims that he "owes his freedom to millions of dead, anonymous Russians". After 40 years, isn't it time we acknowledged that neither the Hollywood nor the Pravda version of World War Two is the whole truth?

The truth is that the Western Allies would have never broken the German Army without the massive sacrifices of the Red Army, who in turn would have never gained the upper hand without the sacrifices of thousands of British and US airmen in breaking the back of the Luftwaffe, and none of these sacrifices would have mattered had not the dedication and courage of seamen from all nations triumphed over the U-boats in the Battle of the Atlantic.

Nineteen-forty-five provides the perfect opportunity to lay the old myths to rest. Nazism was undoubtedly a monstrous evil — but not all Germans were Nazis. And more importantly, it is the efforts of every nationality which finally overcame Hitler. — Yours sincerely, Peter J. Green, 90 Mayfield Road, VE day, Sandstead, Surrey.

Sir — My wife and I served in the forces during the 1939-45 war and in the year following D day did our courting. Last year on the D day anniversary we decided to revisit the two stations from which we did our courting.

In the days following, as we watched television, we were glad we had chosen our way of remembering, because we were sickened by the politicians posturing on the Normandy beaches. We felt joyful at one picture only, that of the German and American paratroopers embracing each other, and we feel this is how VE day should be celebrated in 1985.

The government should invite contingents of ex-servicemen and women from all the nations involved in that conflict, to meet in London, and hopefully other nations would celebrate similarly. I helped build American B-29 bombers and watched brave Russian pilots fly those unfamiliar aircraft to Russia and into battle. I would not belittle their contribution to the war, and feel certain they, who stood with me and watched a British pilot testing their ma-

chine, and dying in the flames of his subsequent crash, would not question his contribution. Neither I hope would politicians not of our generation, and not directly involved in the fighting. Roger Webster, 22 Hollybush Road, Crawley, Sussex.

Sir, — Of course it would be wrong to forget that the Soviet Union made the most important contribution to the defeat of Nazi Germany during the last four years of the second world war (Editorial, January 14). But it would be just as wrong to forget what happened during the previous two years.

In August 1939 the Soviet Union became an ally of Nazi Germany, then helped to begin the war by seizing half of Poland, part of Finland, and the whole of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Bessarabia. Indeed, Stalin remained a loyal ally of Hitler until he was attacked in June 1941. Moreover, unlike Nazi Germany, the Soviet Union has held on to these early conquests ever since.

So by all means let us remember the truth about the efforts of every nationality which finally overcame Hitler. — Yours sincerely, Nicholas Walker, Hammersmith Hospital, London W12.

Sir — Of course, the Russians bore the brunt of the war against Germany, though not against Japan. No one who is honest and in his right senses could deny it. But there are still people with memories. Had it not been for the infamous occasion when the swastika was hoisted on Moscow airport to welcome Ribbentrop, and the Red Army played the Horst Wessel Lied in his honour, there would have been no need for such a vast sacrifice.

There is no point in going over all this ground again but let us hope there will be too much tub-thumping from either side. We will obviously have to put up with some. But let us not be too generous in praising any one side, but let us put out their own fire. — Yours, John Atkins, Birch Green, Birch, Colchester.

Sir — What a week! First, world war two did take place after all, and now (in response to Enoch Powell's question) the Soviet Union took part in it! — Yours Peter Hill Paul, London WC2.

technically advanced mines women would no longer be restricted by their physical limitations. The women miners of the USA have proved when given the opportunity that they can do the work.

After this strike is over women should be given the freedom of choice as to whether they pursue a mining career, but to be sure this demanding, dangerous and dusty job is not for the faint hearted. — Yours sincerely, A. Davis, 5 Till Grove, Highthorn Estate, Ellington, Morpeth

Bad blood that leads to an Aids dilemma

Sir, — I am the member of a nine-year-old haemophilic son. My husband is American, and about four years ago, family and friends in America began sending us articles about the Aids virus and its link with haemophilia.

About that time my son was due to switch from treatment with the NHS Factor VIII to the American factor but at my request, the hospital agreed that he could remain on English treatment although they had not heard of Aids. The situation remained at that, with my bringing articles and information on Aids to my son's haemophilia clinic until about a year ago, when the Aids epidemic received publicity through a television programme.

This week my husband and I went to Great Ormond Street Hospital to meet with the doctors. The hospital has

been informative and supportive throughout — but the doctors wanted to see us to say that the majority of haemophilia centres throughout England have decided to switch treatment from the NHS factor to the new heat-treated American factor, which they feel is marginally safer. When we asked if it were not true that the NHS Factor would be available in April (Guardian, January 21), we were told that only minute quantities would be ready in April and that there would not be enough for the Great Ormond Street children until at least the end of the year.

Having lived in America and knowing how many people sell their blood there, and also knowing the time for real testing of the heat treatment process has been very short — we are faced with this dreadful dilemma. Do we, after keeping our son

on NHS factor all this time, switch to the heat-treated American when we know that Aids is epidemic in the United States, or do we allow him to remain on the English Factor VIII which is not heat-treated and may now be contaminated?

We feel that this is a dilemma we should not be facing. First, the Aids epidemic started years ago. If I, as a lay person, knew about it, I'm certain many others in this country within the medical profession and the Government also knew. Second, since heat treatment of NHS Factor VIII is going to be available — it should be available now so that this dreadful choice need not be made. All English haemophiliacs should have plentiful supplies of the British heat-treated factor. — Yours sincerely, Julia Harrison, London, W1.

Abram's babe

Sir, — Your Diary (January 18) reinforces a point made in an earlier letter to your columns, that the Virgin Mary could be described as a surrogate mother.

Perhaps the most notable example in the Bible, however, was Hagar (Genesis 16). Abram and Sarai had no children, so they entered into an agreement unofficially with the slave-girl Hagar to "found a family through her" and Abram lay with her. Throughout the pregnancy and after the birth of the child, family relationships were disturbed, and the experiment ended in disaster when Sarai (renamed) eventually managed to conceive and the surrogate mother and her son were ejected from the household and denied a share in the inheritance.

It has always seemed curious to me that in the 1662 Prayer Book the epistle for the Fourth Sunday in Lent takes up this theme, although with considerable sophistication. Do many Anglicans realise that Mothering Sunday therefore has its origins in a reading which examines the virtues and vices of surrogate motherhood? — Yours sincerely, (Rev.) David A. Edwards, Loversmouth Vicarage, Cockerworth, Cumbria.

Second Opinion
Letters—Page 11

Why beef farmers can't stomach vegetarians

Sir, — Vegetarians rejoice! Break out the lentil wine. When sons of toil such as livestock farmer Tony Harman (Guardian, January 19) are reduced to turning their horny hands to crude parody of our way of life, we know we must be getting somewhere.

Mr Harman's fictional scenario, wherein a society of meat-eaters is obliged overnight to become vegetarian, may be a meat-producer's nightmare. But it is the real situation of a population gradually abandoning meat as they discover the vegetarian diet to be cheaper, healthier and tastier. That provokes the nightmares in such as Mr Harman.

It is this gradual transformation which renders invalid the fears Mr Harman expresses in his article — which generally relate to insufficient preparation for the change — but which also means a gradual diminishing of profits and consequent run-down of the meat industry. This is the real reason for the tortured dreams of Tony Harman and his cronies.

People are discovering, slowly but surely, that they can resolve their moral qualms with their love of food. What no meat? No thanks. — Yours, Gregory Wake, 36 Ferndale Road, Luton, Beds.



Sir, — While Tony Harman's article 'A Pig's Life' raised quite a few hackles, it hardly raised a laugh.

No vegetarian or vegan I've spoken to imagines that meat-eating will be banned by legislation, or that mass animal slaughter will be required saving only a few farm animals for show. Much more likely is a gradual increasing abhorrence of the barbarity of eating scorched animal flesh, such as has prompted Harman's outburst. Since the present population of farm animals is maintained at a high level by deliberate breeding, a continuing move to veganism will simply lead to a gradual decline in numbers of farm animals.

About the only realistic points in Harman's article are those which draw attention to the fact that dairy produce and wool also ultimately require animal slaughter, so that the most

humane diet is a vegan one. But how silly to even by implying that vegetarian children will want rockets to play with instead of toy farm animals; hasn't Tony Harman noticed that most vegetarians and vegans really are peaceful people? — Yours faithfully, (Dr) Gill Langley, 46 Kings Road, Hitchin, Herts.

Hard sell

Sir, — You may be interested to know that the Guardian is used as punishment by one of the maths teachers at my school. So far I have been made to copy out an article on the miners' strike, and an advertisement for a job in Eucorn.

Is this one of the 11 million reasons for buying the Guardian? — Yours sincerely, Matthew Moore, Somerton.

A killer with no remorse

Sir, — I see no evidence to support Michael Simmons's claim (Guardian, January 10) that those accused of the murder of Father Poplewski had played "touches of sensitivity".

The brutality with which Piotrowski was killed, played down in the official autopsy but clearly evident to those of the family who saw the body — was a manifestation of almost sadistic hatred. And yet Piotrowski, haughty and arrogant to the end, has shown virtually no signs of remorse; his only reaction has been to voice absurd anti-clerical allegations.

His comment that hatred in the department for the priest had reached such a pitch that anybody would have volunteered for action to harm him, hardly testifies to the "uncertainty" prevailing in the ministry.

Although Jaruzelski has distanced himself from the crime, it is clear the murder was the culmination of a series of brutal actions against priests involving setting fire to their false indictments on framed evidence, and numerous death threats. Recently two priests from the Lublin area were abducted and tortured.

Jaruzelski and Kiszkak bear responsibility for these actions because they actually supervise these ministries. Few in Poland believe the truth will emerge or that a sentence, if passed, will be carried out. On past experience, official investigations into security police malpractice have never resulted in legal action. And yet there is enormous documentary evidence of brutal beatings during interrogations, torture, and mysterious deaths.

From my experience when studying in Poland, I know that many young people disappeared and been found dead: either drowned, hanged, or at the foot of tall housing blocks. Their names are not to be found in the underground press because their families fear similar security police reprisals.

Whatever happens to Piotrowski after this trial, few Poles have any illusions that the situation in Poland will be any different. The Poles are waiting for deeds, not words, however noble and laudatory. — Yours faithfully, Peter Lloyd, The Barn, Bourne End, Bucks.

since been joined by a second individual, and although I only succeeded in finding three species of grebes — the abundant great crested (25), 2 little grebes and one red-necked grebe — since my visit a fourth — a Slavonian has turned up. Like the great northern diver and the merganser, normally overwinter in coastal waters, the reason for their inland visit is more likely to be due to recent gales in the Channel — an inference supported by the presence of a single knot and a redshank, both shore-birds in winter.

W. D. Campbell

Women fit for the coal face

Sir, — The support the miners have received from the women in their communities in the long and bitter miners' strike has changed my attitude to the question of women being allowed to work down the mines.

As a coal miner whose job it is to work on the coal face and as a district councillor I have met many women who are not content to limit their support to the NUM by running meal centres or jumble sales but have joined the men on picket lines. This sort of commitment to their communities should be extended to cover all of their aspirations.

Jury vetting on the basis of tittle-tattle

Sir, — The Clive Ponting case is a clear example of the 18th century common-law Blackstone's warning that governments will not attack juries openly but by "secret machinations". The right of the citizen to be tried by his or her peers is removed by vetting in order to produce a jury acceptable to the prosecution (that is the state).

According to the Attorney General's guidelines issued in 1980 juries are not vetted to establish whether they are a "security risk" but on the acceptability of their political beliefs. Prosecuting counsel can ask a juror to stand by if she or

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he reflects "the extreme views of a pressure group". The Ponting case is a trial of the Official Secrets Act and raises questions of where a civil servant's duty lies. In this context what is an acceptable view?

In practice, where prosecution counsel are allowed to vet they rely on information from the police Special Branch. As the Home Affairs Select Committee heard, these files contain a rag-bag of hearsay and irrelevant information about individuals' beliefs on a wide range of matters of legitimate public concern from hunting to attendance at public meet-

ings which in previous cases have lacked both objectivity and accuracy. — Yours faithfully, Marie Stanton, Legal Officer, National Council for Civil Liberties, 21 Tabard Street, London, SE1.

Giving up

Sir, — Has Lent arrived early for Guardian readers in Scotland this year? — Yours avidly, Michael Carling, 91 Morningside Drive, Edinburgh.

all around have flocked to the one large expanse of open water. The most plentiful duck species involved is the widgeon — I estimated over 600 on my last visit, but since then another reliable observer reckoned that 1,000 would be nearer the mark. The next most plentiful species were mallards and tufted ducks, with around 500 of each, and other ducks present were shoveler, gadwall, around 100 pochard, a pair of feral golden ducks, about 20 greylag, 11 goosander, and a single red-breasted merganser. The great northern diver, which has been present for many weeks, has, I am informed,

since been joined by a second individual, and although I only succeeded in finding three species of grebes — the abundant great crested (25), 2 little grebes and one red-necked grebe — since my visit a fourth — a Slavonian has turned up. Like the great northern diver and the merganser, normally overwinter in coastal waters, the reason for their inland visit is more likely to be due to recent gales in the Channel — an inference supported by the presence of a single knot and a redshank, both shore-birds in winter.

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OXFORDSHIRE: One interesting outcome of the current wintry spell has been the spectacular concentration of waterfowl on the Farnor reservoirs near Oxford. Normally in this area wintering wildfowl are fairly evenly distributed amongst the complex of gravel-pit, pools, plex between the Thames and the Wildfowl and other waters such as the reservoirs, and the lakes at Blenheim. But most of these sites (with the exception of parts of the latter one) are now frozen over, and the obvious explanation for the increase at the reservoirs seems to be that birds from

Moreover, Mr Meyer conveniently forgets that Robert Graves publicly urged that Pound should be hanged as a traitor. Now this may be patriotic, even democratic, but it is a sad fact that they hump people off in democracies as well. — Yours sincerely, Lon Glandfield, Hazeldene Lane, Lewes, Sussex.

More justice for children in care means more work for the lawyers. Malcolm Dean concludes his series on the 1975 Children Act.

The minnows on the scales of justice



LAWYERS who deal with children in care proceedings have always been the Cinderellas of the legal service. In the eyes of the Children's Legal Centre, a pressure group for children, the lawyers who are given the work display "an unacceptably low standard of representation."

Yet this is one area of a legal activity which looks destined to expand in the next decade. One reason is the contraction of other legal work. Solicitors will lose their 100-year-old monopoly over conveyancing next year, and conveyancing currently provides one half of all solicitors' income. There will also be less prosecution for the firms which have traditionally provided a service for the police, once the full-time Crown Prosecutors' system is in full swing by the autumn of 1986.

There could even be less divorce work. Certainly the South committee, which is reviewing divorce court pro-

cedures, has not tried to hide its hopes of simplifying the present confusing and contradictory procedures — which should mean less work for solicitors.

There are other forces at work, too, however, which will mean increasing involvement of the law and lawyers in child care work — a field which until recently has been mostly regarded as an exclusive preserve of local authority discretion.

These trends include: The sheer expansion of the legal profession. No other profession has grown so fast in the last two decades, with the number of solicitors more than doubling. There are now 45,000 practising solicitors with another 6,500 articled clerks in the pipeline.

The increasing readiness of the English courts to review both central and local authority discretion. Courts are not just hearing more cases but have widened their remit by reviewing issues which would never have been examined a decade ago.

An increasing recognition that children in care are still frequently denied justice and that their parents still lack some basic legal rights.

There have been some signs in the last decade. The criteria by which children are placed in secure units is now much stricter and open to judicial review. Parents who are being denied access to their children in care can now

appeal to the courts. In care cases where the interests of the parents are in conflict with their children's, parents can now apply for legal aid for separate representation. Although they are not full parties to the proceedings and have no specific rights to call evidence, cross-examine witnesses or address the court.

Scarcity and poverty

There is still, however, a long way to go. In magistrates' courts, natural parents do not know what is going to be said in a care hearing until the court sits; in the High Court, evidence would have been disclosed. Social reports are delivered orally in magistrates' courts, but with chunks from the written report, which has been given to the bench, left out. With ten different routes into care, a local authority which is transferred by the courts rather than by local councils.

There are, however, two dangers in this extension of legal rights. The first is the poor standard of legal representation. Only 400 of the 45,000 practising solicitors belong to the Solicitors' Family Law Association, which has drawn up a code of practice emphasising the advantages of a conciliatory rather than litigious approach. The Law Society has recognised this problem and is setting up panels of child care

last year, concluded that it wasn't, and recommended that the law should be changed so that all such orders would have to be confirmed by a court within a week.

Each year, local authorities pass resolutions assuming parental rights over up to 5,000 children in care. Only if the child's parents object does the case come to court for a decision. At any one time, about 17,500 children in care are subject to these resolutions.

The purpose is to make long-term plans for children for whom there is no realistic chance of rehabilitation with their families and to ensure that a large number of children who are trapped in care are freed for long-term foster or adoptive families. The Select Committee said that it had received no serious evidence that local councils were abusing this power. But it did recommend that parental rights should in future be transferred by the courts rather than by local councils.

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specialist solicitors across the country. Over one thousand have applied, but only between a third and a half will be placed on the panel. The others will have to undergo further training. But if they are appointed to handle a case, there will be no bar to them carrying out the work.

The second problem with extending children's legal rights is the difficulty of determining at what point legalism begins to interfere with the welfare interests of the child.

The Select Committee spent some time reviewing this problem. It concluded that a court could not become an agency for determining in detail the welfare needs of a child. It ruled against court-controlled access in care cases because of the danger of endless litigation. It rejected general court reviews of all children in care.

It concluded: "There is a fine line to be drawn between giving local authorities the necessary freedom to manage the lives of children in their care and ensuring that courts can do more than legitimise the decisions of social services departments. But local authority social services departments cannot be viewed simply as agents of the courts. Such a situation would eventually paralyse social services departments and demoralise their staff, quite apart from dividing the care of children between yet more adults in different organisations."

The Government has set up an official committee to codify child care law. The task is substantial because of its present and contradictory nature. There are five major statutes. Every court has some powers over children but not the same powers. Once the committee has finished its work — and it has been asked for a prompt report — the real debate will begin.

No realistic chance

The Select Committee provided a useful general principle: "Courts should make long-term decisions impinging directly on the rights and duties of children or their parents and the local authority or welfare agency should make decisions on matters which, although they may be of equal or greater importance, are not susceptible to clear and unambiguous resolution."

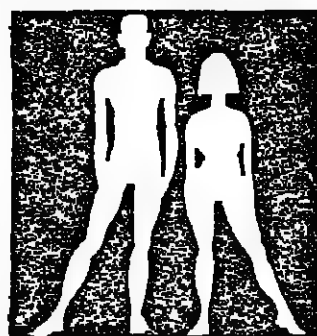
It also warned about the "new and disturbing strictness" in the advocacy of the rights of parents to access and custody of their children in care. "Rights of this kind," it said, "have no absolute validity; they derive from the exercise of responsibilities."

There is one reform, however, which would preempt many of the legal problems: more preventive work with families so that fewer children are taken into care. Even the former head of Mrs Thatcher's Think Tank, Ferdinand Mount, has conceded

this. He noted that children can be put into care, their parents described as inadequate and the "blame is thus attributed to them individually rather than the general conditions of scarcity and poverty."

The demand for solicitors is not going to dry up. The Government's failure to expand conciliation services will mean that divorced couples will still often only communicate through solicitors rather than face to face. The delay in establishing a family court means that our legalistic approach to family law is not going to be replaced with more informal court procedures. And there is clearly plenty of matrimonial business for lawyers in the magistrates' courts, where under half of all people making domestic applications are legally represented.

The law does now place the interests of the child first on most issues. The problem is not the law but the lawyers. They still place lawyers' interests first. In 1985 the barristers rejected the Lord Chancellor's proposals, which could have been a first step towards a family court, because they would have granted solicitors rights of audience in a larger number of courts. A few years earlier the judges rejected Finer's proposals for a family court because it would have meant more decentralised courts and devalued the judicial role. Children and other clients were not even considered.



BODY AND SOUL

Walking under the cancer ladder

EDITH EFRON could be the leader of a counter-reformation. Certainly she has launched a vigorous assault on a form of unreason with which science, technology, and indeed industry, have had to contend for the past 25 years.

Ms Efron is an American journalist who has worked recently as a research associate at the University of Rochester and her campaign began last year when Simon and Schuster published her book: *The Apocalypses: Cancer and the Big Lie*. She describes its theme thus:

"For several decades — since the publication of *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson — our nation's efforts to combat cancer have been dominated by a religious-political view of man, nature, and society."

"I call the environmental scientists and government regulators who adhere to this ideology the Apocalypses, in that with little or no data, they have ceaselessly projected the catastrophic destruction of life on earth by industrial civilisation. Where Apocalypses are concerned, cancer is fundamentally a modern moral and political disease caused by the human evils of intellectual arrogance and greed."

"Ninety per cent of it, they have said, comes from 'the Faustian sin' from man's arrogant conquest of nature; from post-World War Two science, technology, economic growth, and affluence; from the primary values of the industrial revolution and Western civilisation and, not infrequently, from capitalism, the market, and profits."

She nominates Rachel Carson as patron saint of Apocalypses and includes among the disciples Barry Commoner, Paul Erlich, Ralph Nader, Rene Dubois, and Samuel Epstein.

But what she really indicts is a mood, a way of thinking, maybe even a religion that I suspect took a tighter grip on the imagination of Middle America than on that of Middle Britain. She contrasts the extravagance of the claims made by American environmentalists who, during the '70s, issued repeated alarms of impending disaster, with the mundanity of what science and actually established at the time.

Her technique is to shoot down fantasies with boring facts and I can only hint at the weight of evidence she adduces. At one point, for instance, she documents the way the Apocalypses focused on the potential cancer-causing properties of industrial chemicals and food additives, and, insidiously, suggested that few carcinogens came from the Garden of Eden. She then prints a 40-page list of naturally occurring cancer-causers.

She also offers a string of case histories that show how the prevailing politico-religious mood affected decisions made by official bodies. In 1980, for instance, the US Food and Drug Administration denied a petition from Abbott Laboratories for the reapproval of the use of cyclamate as artificial sweeteners.

Cyclamates had been banned in the US in the early '70s after a "cancer scare" that followed heavy lobbying from the sugar industry. In 1980 Abbott submitted data showing that only one bladder tumour had occurred among 520 heavily dosed rats — the known spontaneous incidence of that type of tumour in that type of rat.

That, says Efron, was impressive evidence of safety. But the FDA claimed it was evidence of a weak carcinogenic effect and told Abbott that, to show that cyclamates were safe, "with reasonable certainty," they would need to test another 100,000 animals.

Abbott were not prepared to do that — it would have cost \$100 millions. So Americans were denied a product used widely and apparently safely, in Europe.

I readily admit that some of my best friends are Apocalypses and would claim they render invaluable service by making us aware of the effect our actions can have on our environment.

I must also admit that Ms Efron assembles formidable evidence to support her case though she may deter potential supporters with her style. But it will be a pity if Ms Efron's style deafens her audience to what she is actually saying. If we are to prevent cancer, people must first understand what it is. For too many people, it is still a taboo-ridden subject. Sadly, some of the Apocalypses have perpetuated the taboo by supplying modern superstitions to replace medieval ones.

Michael O'Donnell

Her with emorse

I saw no evidence of any of the usual signs of emorse. The patient was in a state of emorse, but the signs were not there.

emorse is a condition of the body — a state of emorse. It is a condition of the body, a state of emorse. It is a condition of the body, a state of emorse.

emorse is a condition of the body — a state of emorse. The patient was in a state of emorse, but the signs were not there.

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When private contractors arrive in hospitals, experienced domestic staff leave. Tom Snow reports



Pickets at Barking in June last year. Picture by Garry Weaser.

How Fowler was taken to the cleaners

ONE day soon Norman Fowler and his ministerial team at the DHSS will find themselves confronted by a most unwelcome brief. In the nicest possible civil service way, it will tell them that their policy of letting private contractors compete for hospital domestic work has already proved a disastrous failure.

There was nothing to stop health ministers from defending the status quo at the outset through a sober assessment of the dismal past experience of using contractors for this type of work. But the policy emerged instead after "a number of meetings with representatives of the cleaning, catering and laundry industries."

Not that ministers took too much notice of them either. Spokesmen for the Contract Cleaning and Maintenance Association have repeatedly appealed for existing NHS pay and conditions of employment to be retained, to avoid firms undercutting wages in the scramble for contracts. Ministers ruled this out, as they did any suggestion that health authorities might impose minimum staffing levels. They as good as fired a starting pistol, for cut-throat competition on these two fronts.

Staffing levels are, effectively, being cut twice. When health authorities draw up the specifications upon which tenders are invited, they tend to cut cleaning frequencies and standards. Then they are bid down further by the com-

peting firms. Staffing cuts of 50 per cent are the order of the day.

This means, for example, that at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge, nurses have ended up doing much of the work on the wards. They now find themselves serving and clearing away meals and hot drinks — time consuming tasks, and all previously done by domestics. Other jobs such as emptying waste bags, replacing paper towels and washing and replacing water jugs and glasses simply tend to be neglected. The contractor deals promptly enough with complaints, but tackling a complaint in one place often means creating a new one somewhere else.

All this was predictable. It is typical of reasons why private domestic contracts, common enough years ago, have almost all been abandoned. Addenbrookes has been an exception because, until recently, a succession of contractors maintained sufficient staffing levels to achieve a reasonable standard of service.

But, the new approach of putting staffing levels and wages at the mercy of competitive tendering, has had an even more devastating consequence. The staff have left. There are enough examples now to rule out unusual local labour market conditions, or the ineptitude of any particular contractor, as possible causes of this. In each case adequate numbers of experienced domestics were available when the contractor arrived. Yet almost all left

either at once or over the ensuing months.

Such cases include Maidstone District Hospital (Hospital Hygiene Services), All Saints, Chatham (Exclusive), Finchley, Harington (Lesters), Barking (Crothalls), Papworth (Crothalls) and Addenbrookes, Cambridge (O.C.S.) the biggest so far.

All these contracts have begun during the past eighteen months. They are all clear warnings of the chaos, the additional burdens placed on nursing and other staff and the devastating cuts in standards which competitive tendering threatens against the whole NHS, over the next couple of years or so.

It is not merely a one-off problem of domestics leaving. Some after a lifetime in the job. They are followed by the rapid turnover of completed services dealing with the chaos. Nurses constantly have to take time to introduce them to the complexities of the ward routine. Sisters have to keep a permanent eye on their work. The level and quality of supervision, which might be adequate for a stable workforce, cannot cope with workers who stay just long enough for the pressure of work to become unbearable. However much the Health Authority may scream and slap on penalties, there is nothing the contractor can do about it. The service is inadequate, unreliable and in breach of any number of specific provisions in the contract.

Why has this happened? The answer is sobering for

any politician trying to impose money-saving measures on anything as labyrinthine as the NHS. The work of a ward domestic is not what it appears to be. Their traditional physical tasks inevitably bring about a great deal of contact with each patient, which for some is often more important, and less stressful, than their contact with nurses. For a few, particularly elderly patients, a domestic can be a vital point of contact with the hospital.

This is what makes ward domestics an integral part of a caring team. To define their work simply as cleaning is as absurd as defining home helps as cleaners. But take away everything except a mad rush to get minimal cleaning done and you destroy the rewarding caring part of the job. And what's left isn't worth the biscuit. Not that there was ever much of that: £1.72 an hour has now been shown to be far less than the market value of hospital domestic labour. The difference was made up of intrinsic rewards blown away by competitive tendering.

The irony of this will not be lost on the Health Minister, Kenneth Clarke, who told health authorities last October: "When assessing a contractor's competence, an authority can certainly consider, among other things, whether the wage rates and conditions likely to be offered by that contractor will be adequate to attract the right sort of staff, given the available supply of full-time or

part-time workers in the area."

The logic of what is now happening is that staffing the job according to the lights of the contract cleaning industry will require very much higher rates of wages than those paid by the health service itself. Whoever the "right sort of staff" are, they must at least be people who stay in the job for more than a few weeks to provide the skill and experience without which they are a trying burden to other staff. And by reducing the job to cleaning, the Government and the contractors are storing up endless industrial disputes for the future.

The newcomers are forced to think of their work primarily in terms of its price tag. Wages are being fixed unilaterally by the contractors. One way or another, the directly employed labour force under the same roof is enjoying a better deal. All these things will eventually give the "cleaners" good reason for joining trade unions and striking to achieve justice they are daily denied. And their lack of involvement with patients will leave no holds barred.

Of course, this will only happen in the hospitals which have succumbed to private contractors. The low staffing levels and wages have been shown so clearly to be unwelcome that other health authorities are bound to be reviewing the implications of tendering.

Tom Snow is an Education Officer of the National Union of Public Employees in the South East.

Rubbish outside the staff dining room at Addenbrookes hospital last October. Picture by Simon Grosset.

Adoption and the survival of the fittest parents

SECOND OPINION

MANY families with children in care, or lost through adoption from care, would explain developments in adoptions very differently from Malcolm Dean (*Society Tomorrow*, January 9).

There has been no radical shift in the balance of legal rights between children and parents. What has occurred is a dramatic shift in the balance between the rights of natural families and the power of local authorities. In spite of research that shows a clear link between poverty and admission to care, the Children Act 1975 did nothing to help poor and hard-pressed families gain access to the resources they needed to discharge their responsibilities towards their children. It extended the right of local authorities to assume parental rights over children in voluntary care.

There falls into the unhelpful trap of equating care with

failure. He talks of "freeing" children "trapped in care" and says nothing of the children for whom care is a planned partnership between family and local authority, research to which he refers did not show that three-quarters of children in care would remain there until 18. It showed what social workers thought would happen to children already in care for six months.

As in several major studies since, the researchers were critical of social workers who held negative views about natural parents. The most recent DHSS studies continue to criticise departments that do little to encourage contact between parents and their absent children and increasingly reject offers of help from other family members.

There is much that is positive in adoption as an option for children deprived of their own families. But when local authorities actively or passively bring about that deprivation, they move away from principles of child care based on support for the family as

well as the child and towards care based on the survival of the fittest parents.

Jo Tunnard, Director, Family Rights Group, London N7.

AS chairman of the organisation that offers support to adopted adults and their parents, I must comment on Malcolm Dean's reference to the statistics relating to use of Section 26 of the 1975 Children Act — the provision on access to birth records.

He mentions that while only about 2 per cent of those adopted between 1927 and 1983 have used the legislation, many of them may not yet be old enough to apply for counselling. But he fails to draw readers' attention to the number of adopted people who died before the legislation was implemented, those adopted by step-parents, or other relatives, and the very large proportion of adoptees who know, or can find out from their adopted parents, what their name was at birth.

In our experience, over 50 per cent of adopted people

have no need to use the Section 26 legislation in order to obtain their original birth certificate. While this controversial clause may have received the use anticipated, its operation and associated publicity has raised the levels of awareness of the feasibility of tracing among adoptees and its influence is far more widespread than simple statistics would suggest.

Each case is vitally important to the individual involved. For this reason, we are most concerned that the figures should not be misinterpreted as suggesting a lack of interest in birth origins among adopted people. In the present climate of debate about the Warnock report and the birth of the first British commercial surrogate child, we must remember that the welfare of the child is of paramount importance and that welfare must include the right to truthful information about origins, if required.

Norel Hodgkins.

FARNHAM, Warwick.

IN 1978, the local authority asked my mother if she wished to have her illegitimate adopted daughter contact her. This was a total shock to her. We, her children, were unaware of having a half-sister. My mother had apparently totally blocked off this period of her life — during the 1940s — as having happened to someone else.

To see the effect the attempt at contact had on my mother was heart-rending. She had obviously carried her feelings of guilt and shame with her all these years and they required only a jolt to emerge again.

About a year later, her daughter did make contact on the telephone — yet another shock. This time, my mother coped rather better. However, they still have not met. My mother is confused and shaken and feels her family structure is under threat. Her feelings of self-worth and confidence are to this day somewhat fragile and her sex life has been drastically affected.

The rest of the family have tried to support her and

encourage her to talk to someone outside the family about her feelings. But for her, I fear, this is impossible. So I feel that natural parents should be counselled, and not just their children who have been adopted by others, when those children wish to contact them.

After the agony

THE British Medical Group of Amnesty International welcomed the article on the work of the International Rehabilitation Centre for the Victims of Torture in Copenhagen (*Society Tomorrow*, January 9) as a public attention once again to the obscenity of torture and the need for informed and sympathetic help for those who often suffer incalculable injury as a result of it.

Since 1978, this group has been treating, monitoring and caring for people who have been tortured and are now domiciled in the UK. We now provide medical care and support to victims of torture

through a network of some 280 medical professionals covering almost the entire spectrum of British medicine. The International Rehabilitation Centre should continue to receive every support and encouragement. But it should also be recognised that much valuable work is being done in many other countries, not least in the UK.

Elizabeth Garsden, Chairman, British Medical Group, Amnesty International.

Green pastures

RESEARCH into the effects of different levels of anaesthesia upon awareness was described in *Body and Soul*, January 9, to a research group in California. In fact, the research is being carried out by Drs P. J. Standen and C. Hosker in Nottingham. In spite of all the financial cut-backs, some people still manage to carry out innovative and worthwhile research in this relatively green and fairly pleasant land.

Keith Millar (Dr), Behavioural Sciences Group, University of Glasgow.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Dennis Wood, our Chief Executive and Town Clerk, retires in the Spring after 40 years service.

The woman or man who replaces him will take on one of the most demanding roles in local government. Hackney is amongst the most deprived areas of the country and the Council is committed to improving the living and working conditions of its multi-ethnic community.

A CREDIBLE ADVOCATE

Crucial aspects of the role will be your responsibility for promoting Hackney's stance against rate-capping, and against the growing encroachment of central government on local democracy. Consequently, we place high on our list of requirements an understanding of local government procedures, legislation and finance in an inner city context; at least a broad sympathy with our objectives, and a commitment to the implementation of our policies.

But important though these two issues are, we would not want them to obscure the many other enduring aspects of the Chief Executive's role.

AN AGENT OF CHANGE

In recent years, we have begun to introduce substantial changes both in the nature of our services and in the way we deliver them to the community. One of our key objectives is to ensure that they meet the needs of, and are more accountable to, our local community.

We will be looking to you to develop and accelerate that process by working closely with the Directors and the elected Members on a number of important and sensitive issues, including the Council's equal opportunities objectives in service delivery and employment.

HOW DO WE DEFINE WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR IN OUR NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE?

AN EFFECTIVE CO-ORDINATOR

One of the areas where you can influence change is by developing a positive corporate approach to the analysis, implementation and review of policy objectives. The Council's Management Team plays a central role in this process.

This skilled team will be under your direct leadership and we will expect your key role within the team to involve effective direction and delegation.

A CREATIVE INNOVATOR

Whilst policy initiatives obviously rest with the elected Members you will contribute to progressive policy development in an active dialogue with them, and will produce original studies on a variety of topics.

We are open-minded about the precise nature of your previous experience. However it needs to include living or working in a multi-racial environment, leadership or management experience, and industrial relations experience.

Salary £32,112 - £33,642 inclusive of London Weighting and travelling allowance.

Job share applications will be welcomed with or without a partner.

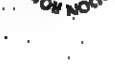
You can obtain an application form, job description and detailed particulars by writing to John Penney, Head of Personnel Services, Town Hall, Mare Street, E8 1EA or by telephoning 01-986 3123 ext. 307/211 during office hours or 01-986 5331 (24 hour telephone answering service). Please quote reference number X090/G

If you feel you would welcome more information after looking at the detailed particulars you can contact Dennis Wood, on 01-985 2488 between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Application Forms to be returned by 5th February 1985.

The 2 day Selection Procedure will take place on the 21st and 22nd February 1985.

HACKNEY COUNCIL
Working for local people



We particularly welcome applications from black people, disabled people and women where they are under-represented in particular jobs

ISLINGTON IS GOING LOCAL

Islington is taking its services closer to local people, putting Housing, Social Services, Environmental Health and Area Repairs together into Neighbourhood Offices. The first four offices are now opening.

These vacancies are for people to lead the Neighbourhood Team in each of the eight offices in Phase 2 of this programme, which is one of the most advanced decentralisation projects in local government.

NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICERS (8 POSTS)

£12,894 to £13,929 P.A. (INCL.) PAY AWARD PENDING

As well as a commitment to decentralisation and an understanding of the issues raised by an inner-city multi-cultural area, we are looking for someone who will ensure the different services work together, the office runs efficiently and that local people have their say in what the Council does.

The persons will have a wide range of skills and will have worked in a position of responsibility, preferably in the public or the voluntary sector. They will have had experience of co-ordinating and supervising staff carrying out different functions. The ability to liaise and communicate effectively with a wide range of people is essential. The persons will be able to identify training needs and be willing to participate in the provision of training programmes.

The posts are graded PO3. Please telephone or write for an application form and further details to: Director of Personnel, London Borough of Islington, Northway House, 257/258 Upper Street, London N1 1RW. Tel: 01-226 8809. Closing date first post, Monday February 11th, 1985.

Applications are welcome from candidates regardless of race, sex and sexual orientation and we have a positive attitude towards the employment of disabled people.

TOYNBEE HOUSING ASSOCIATION

HOUSING MANAGER

Salary: £10,500

Toynbee Housing Association wish to appoint a Housing Manager to take charge of their housing in Spitalfields and Maitland. (about 500 units).

The person appointed will have housing management experience (but not necessarily professional qualifications) and be prepared to travel to Maitland at least once a week. This challenging post would suit somebody looking for their first promotion in housing management.

For an application form and job description, or an informal chat, please contact: Roland Crooke, THA, Estate Office, 41 Flower & Dean Walk, London E1 6DT. Tel: 01-247 1289

Closing date for returned applications: 1st February.

POLYTECHNIC OF THE SOUTH BANK

Borough Road, London SE1 0AA.

PERSONNEL OFFICER

Salary up to £16,473 p.a.

A Personnel Officer is required to be responsible for the full range of personnel and establishment functions throughout the Polytechnic. The Polytechnic is moving into a vigorous phase of activity on such matters as equal opportunities and staff development and requires someone who will set an enthusiastic but sensitive lead and, particularly, the appointee should be experienced in negotiating with trade union representatives. Applicants should have had several years relevant experience, and be either a Graduate and/or a Member of the Institute of Personnel Management, or have equivalent qualifications.

Further details and application forms are available from the Staffing Office at the above address (quoting Ref: ADM 67). Closing date for receipt of application forms 15th February 1985. The Polytechnic is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

INDEPENDENT ENQUIRY INTO THE CASE OF "NEWHAM 8"

A Researcher and a Secretary/Administrator required on fixed term contracts

In the light of the events surrounding the case of the attack on and subsequent arrest and prosecution of 8 Asian youths (known as "Newham 8") during 1982/83, Newham Council make a commitment to set up an Independent Enquiry to look at some of the issues involved - and in particular the relationship between police and ethnic minorities in Newham. This Enquiry is about to begin its work and Newham Council is seeking to appoint a Researcher and a Secretary/Administrator on fixed term contracts (funding for six months is now available from the G.L.C. and money for a further three months is presently being sought), to service the Panel of Enquiry.

Researcher

£9,687-£10,267 p.a. (Scale S01)
The main duties of the post will be to undertake research, take evidence, prepare reports and provide legal and other advice for the Enquiry Panel. It is anticipated that the successful candidate will have basic knowledge of policing in London and an appreciation of the particular policing concerns of ethnic minorities. She/he will also be legally qualified. Experience of similar work desirable.

Secretary/Administrator

£6,891-£7,632 p.a. (Scale 4)
The main duties of the post will be to provide secretarial and administrative support to the Enquiry's research. An appreciation of the issues affecting relations between police and ethnic communities in Newham would be an advantage.
For more details ring 472 1430, Ext 3067.
For an application form, write to Chief Executive, Town Hall, East Ham, London, E6 2EP or telephone 01-472 1430, Ext 3065.
Closing date: 12th February, 1985.

An Equal Opportunity Employer



ADVICE WORKER

£8,382-£9,087 Inclusive

To be responsible for the agency's information and advice service in co-operation with the Information Officer. Age Concern Lambeth provides a public information and advice service to individuals and organisations; acts as an information resource; liaises with other advice agencies and campaigns on local and national issues affecting pensioners. The worker will have primary responsibility for dealing with queries at the Central Brixton office and occasional outreach work, follow-up on, complex enquiries and maintenance and updating of the information retrieval system. Essential requirements of this post are experience in welfare rights and/or advice work, interest in the needs of pensioners and ability to use discretion and understanding in dealing with the public.

Age Concern Lambeth is an equal opportunities employer and positively welcomes applications irrespective of race, creed, nationality, disability, age, sex, sexual orientation or responsibility for children and dependents.

For further details and application forms apply to the Co-ordinator, Age Concern Lambeth, 1-5 Acre Lane, London SW2 5SD. Tel: 01-274 7722, Ext. 2394.

Closing date: Friday 1 February, 1985 - Interviews 15 February, 1985.

AGE CONCERN

Lambeth Old People's Welfare Association

Birmingham T.U. Resource Centre

TRADE UNION RESEARCHER

To write and investigate two of manufacturing, women and work, public sector (esp. N.I.S.) and produce leaflets, pamphlets etc. Campaign and union experience more important than academic qualifications.
Contact T.U.R.C. on 021-236 8223 (Roger or Sheila)
Closing date February 9th.

THE EL SALVADOR AND GUATEMALA COMMITTEES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

seek a

FULL TIME WORKER

to organise events and fund raising activities, co-ordinate work with local groups, help supervise volunteers and administer a hectic office. Some evening and weekend work necessary. Job share possible. Salary £7,300.
Applications with CV to arrive by February 10th.
Details (send SAE) from 20 Compton Terrace, London N1 2UN.

GLC Working for London

Head of Programme Support Group

To lead a small team responsible for assisting senior management to co-ordinate and monitor performance, in particular, of the Council's Transport Programme. Duties include preparing annual performance targets and half yearly monitoring reports, co-ordinating budget bids and high level internal liaison.

Good management and communication skills are prerequisites, with the ability to assimilate complex budgeting and monitoring systems quickly. Applicants should be capable of operating efficiently under pressure and of using computer based systems.

Salary: £14,709 - £16,473 inclusive. Ref: 100.

For an application form, to be returned by 8th February 1985, write to: GLC Transport Services Department, Room 454B, The County Hall, SE1 7PB or telephone 01-633 7791.

Industrial Democracy Administrator

The Council's Industrial Democracy machinery enables staff to make a full contribution to the decision-making process on matters that affect them. Within Public Health Engineering this works through a departmental industrial democracy committee, two associated sub committees and local joint committees.

This post is responsible for the organisation and effective maintenance of the system within the department and acts as the main initiator and focal point for its monitoring and general conduct. This entails acting as the management side secretary, liaison with staff side secretaries, preparation and circulation of minutes, arrangement and notification of meetings and the maintenance of records. Work also covers organising familiarisation and awareness training.

Applicants should have proven experience in undertaking a full range of committee secretarial services together with effective communication and interpersonal skills at all levels. Sensitivity, tactfulness and organisational flair and an appreciation of current industrial democracy initiatives are also important.

Salary: £11,253 - £12,993 inclusive.

For an application form, to be returned by 8th February 1985, write to: GLC Department of Public Health Engineering, Room N180, New Block, The County Hall, SE1 7PB or telephone 01-633 4393.

Head of Performance Monitoring Group Section

To lead a team co-ordinating the work of Groups responsible for monitoring performance and identifying/recycling problems, on areas of the Housing Programme. Three of these Groups deal with issues concerning women, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities. The Section Head takes a leading role in co-ordinating and monitoring information and identifying areas for policy consideration.

Good drafting skills, the ability to liaise effectively at senior level and a high level of motivation and initiative are prime requirements. Equally important is the capacity to prioritise and organise a pressured personal and team workload.

Salary: £12,993 - £14,709 inclusive.

Housing Monitoring Officer

To contribute to the work of the Council Mobility Office, which is responsible for managing and monitoring the computerised Greater London Mobility Scheme. Duties include liaising with, and training participating Authorities in the use of the Scheme, monitoring the allocations made by Authorities and dealing with complex problems on individual cases.

Applicants should have a knowledge of housing management/lettings, together with good organisation and communication skills, tact, flexibility and initiative. The capacity to assess priorities, to analyse and solve problems and to learn to use new technology is essential.

Salary: £9,183 - £11,253 inclusive.

For an application form, to be returned by 8th February 1985, write to: GLC Housing Department, 1B3N, The County Hall, SE1 7PB or telephone 01-633 4771.

Assistant Programme & Budget Monitoring Officer

To assist in preparing the annual budget for the Industry & Employment Programme and in assembling programme targets add monitoring their achievement particularly those relating to capital projects. Responsibilities include acting as secretary to the monthly member-level budget monitoring meeting and providing policy-work support to the Deputy Director. Close liaison with various council departments and the Greater London Enterprise Board is called for.

A highly efficient organiser and administrator is sought, experienced in clerking meetings and capable of dealing with heavy workload. Proven communication and interpersonal skills and the ability to produce complex written work are prerequisites, together with a broad understanding of the objectives of the Council's industry and employment policies.

Salary: £11,253 - £12,993 inclusive. Ref: 5046.

Administrative Officer

To provide general administrative support and co-ordination for professional officers in the Industry and Finance units, which deal with issues such as industrial policy and financial institutions and the sector dimensions of strategies in these areas. Responsibilities include ensuring that action is carried through on policy initiatives and liaison with the Greater London Enterprise Board and other GLC units and departments.

Applicants should have good communication skills, particularly in terms of producing reports and other written work, plus proven ability to initiate improvements in office systems and procedures and to work under pressure to deadlines. Staff supervisory experience and an understanding of the Council's industry and employment policies are essential.

Salary: £11,253 - £12,993 inclusive. Ref: 5061.

Assistant Training Officer

To assist in managing training and career development work for a department of 1500 staff. The diverse workload includes researching and implementing departmental training schemes with particular reference to equal opportunities, counselling, setting up interview boards and assisting in managing the training budget and preparing estimates.

This demands first rate organisational ability, numerical initiative and proven capacity to work under pressure to deadlines. Applicants should be effective communicators, tactful and sympathetic in approach, and aware of current training policies and developments.

Salary: £11,253 - £12,993 inclusive. Ref: 5009.

Assistant Committee Clerk

To assist principally in the clerking and servicing of the Finance & General Purposes Committee and its four sub-committees. A wide range of duties are involved including preparation of agenda papers, reports, decision sheets, memoranda and letters which entail wide liaison with Members and officers.

Knowledge, experience of local government committee work or equivalent procedures is needed, with proven ability to recognise and handle sensitive issues and to produce detailed accurate work under pressure. Applicants should be experienced in managing staff and dealing with people at all levels. A flexible and co-operative approach is essential.

Salary: £9,183 - £11,253 inclusive. Ref: 5047.

For an application form, to be returned by 8th February 1985, write to: GLC Director-General's Department, Room 203, The County Hall, SE1 7PB or telephone 01-633 1527/2390. Please quote appropriate reference.

The GLC is an equal opportunities employer. We invite applications from women and men from all sections of the community, irrespective of their ethnic origin, colour, sexual orientation or disability, who have the necessary attributes to do the job.

These posts are suitable for job sharing

County Council Special Programmes Unit

Youth Training Agency Co-ordinator

The Nottinghamshire County Council Youth Training Agency combines both Youth Training and Youth Opportunities Schemes. The Agency provides a wide range of occupational training courses for young people in all County Council Departments and strategically placed projects. The person appointed (male or female) will have considerable management experience and a good knowledge of the Youth Training Scheme. Experience of Local Government will be desirable. The Co-ordinator will have close contact with Members and Senior Officers of the Authority as well as needing to relate to NACS, the Trade Unions and other agencies. The person appointed will be expected to continue the ongoing development of the Agency by the introduction of new concepts carefully considered and imaginatively presented.

This is a full-time position and applicants need not re-apply. For further details and job description please apply to the Special Programmes Unit, at County Hall, Tel: Nottingham 0502 82822, Ext. 3780. Application by letter and cv. Closing date 2 February. Please quote Ref: 710.

Leisure Services/Countryside Division

Countryside Ranger

£5,640-£7,005 p.a.

This post is based at the Leen Valley Country Park and offers the opportunity of working in an urban fringe country park in its early stages of development, and within the City and County. The post involves developing and organising play, recreation and education in the urban fringe park and its environs, with special emphasis on involving minority ethnic groups. The postholder will be responsible for the day to day management of the park, and also be capable of working on their own initiative. The position involves weekend working, for which enhanced payments are payable, and the wearing of a uniform style of clothing. A driving licence is also necessary.

Further details and application forms are available from the Director of Leisure Services, Leisure Services Department, Trent Bridge House, Fox Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 6BA, Tel: Nottingham 0502 80424, Ext. 381. Closing date 8 February. Please quote Ref: 710. For the above two posts relocation expenses where appropriate.

An Equal Opportunity Employer.

Nottinghamshire County Council

County Hall - West Bridgford Nottingham NG2 7QP

A major London Housing Association has the following vacancy

HOUSING ASSISTANT

(c. £8,500 p.a. + car allowance)

The person appointed will work within one of our area teams which each provide the full range of housing services for over 1,000 tenants. Applicants should be able to work under pressure and be committed to providing a high level of service to our tenants. A knowledge of welfare benefits would be especially useful.

The Association operates in an area of high housing stress with a multi-racial community and is committed to meeting a wide range of local housing needs. For this reason applicants with experience of ethnic minorities are particularly welcome to apply.

Closing date: 3 February, 1985.

Application form and job description from: Jane Hensley, Secretary to the Association, Hackney Housing Association, 123 Kingsland High Street, London, E2 2PB.

Telephone: 01-254 1272.

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer

New Islington & Hackney Housing Association

TOWN CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

Committee and General Services Section

Development Workers

(2 posts)

Nuclear Free Zone

Scale S01/2 (£9,060/£10,539)

The City Council already has well developed policies as a nuclear free zone local authority. In order to promote further initiatives and co-ordinate existing activities a new unit is being established in the Town Clerk's Department. The unit will develop peace initiatives, analyse and report on relevant legislation, develop links with trade unions and community groups on nuclear free issues, carry out research projects including work on arms conversion and the transportation of nuclear waste and weapons, organise local campaigns and conferences and generally advise local peace groups.

Applications are now invited for the above posts in the unit. We are looking for people who are committed to the Council's position as a nuclear free zone authority, are aware of our obligations in respect of civil defence and emergency planning and have some appreciation of government strategies and policies. We welcome applications from candidates with experience of working with peace groups.

Application forms and job descriptions may be obtained from the Staff Office, Town Clerk's Department, P.O. Box 532, Town Hall, Manchester, M60 2LA (Telephone 061-234 3077).

Closing date for the receipt of applications is Monday, February 18, 1985.

Manchester City Council is an equal opportunity employer and we positively welcome applications from women and men regardless of their racial, ethnic or national origin, disability, age, sexuality and responsibility for dependants. The City Council operates a Union membership agreement under which a new employee is required to become a member of a recognised Union.

MANCHESTER City Council

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

WELFARE RIGHTS SERVICE

3rd Worker - Money Matters Project

Scale 4/S01 £5,264 - £9,860 p.a. (starting point dependent on qualifications and experience) - pay award pending

An experienced Welfare Rights Officer is required to work as a debt counsellor in the Scotswood area of Newcastle upon Tyne. Further details from Sue Pearson, Senior Welfare Rights Officer, Tel: 229520, ext. 9395.

Application forms available from and returnable to Director of Social Services, Personnel Section, Social Services Department, Civic Centre, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne. Tel: 238520, ext. 6376, by February 6th, 1985.

City of Newcastle upon Tyne

This is an Equal Opportunities Advertisement

ASH

ACTION ON SMOKING AND HEALTH

PROJECTS OFFICER

A careful and thorough person is needed to take on a variety of projects including administering the ASH Supporters schemes. He or she will be responsible for overseeing the production of a quarterly newspaper as well as other printing projects.

Salary £7,550 - £8,550.

For details and application form write to or telephone ASH, 6-11 Morriestown Street, London W1M 7RH. 01-637 9643. Closing date 31st January, 1985.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Qualified Social Workers

(A) Southern District Office
Ballantyne Lushington Rd, Catford,
London SE6. Ref SS235

£8,569-£11,151

An imaginative and enthusiastic worker with a commitment to elderly people is required to join a small group of workers specialising in community social work with elderly people. We are looking for someone with ideas about promoting more positive attitudes towards ageing, and who is interested in initiating and developing projects both for and with older people, by working closely where necessary with "non-professionals" such as tenants groups or voluntary organisations. These abilities are more important than traditional casework skills.

The worker will be a member of the District Resources Team, a team of specialist workers in this district that works alongside four patch teams, covering the Bellingham, Downham and Catford areas of Lewisham.

We are a multi-racial Borough and the Council is committed to meeting the needs of all members of the community. Applications from job sharers are welcome. A leaflet explaining Job Sharing will be sent with application form.

Informal enquiries are encouraged to Bernard Major (Team Leader) or Frank Dawson (Senior Social Worker) on 01-398 9112.

(B) Eastern District Office,
8-12 Eitham Road,
Lee, SE12

Blackheath Team, Ref SS199

(Part-time, 14 hrs per week)

Approx £3,424-£4,460

A qualified worker is required to join a lively and enthusiastic team operating in a varied community with the need for a wide range of social work intervention. There will be the opportunity to carry a fully generic caseload with opportunities to pursue special interests.

The team is committed to involvement with the community and to finding the most effective way of helping those in need. Full participation in the team's varied activities is expected and previous experience or a particular interest in group and advice centre work is desirable. Participation in the duty rota system is required and experience of short-term/crisis work would therefore be an advantage.

There would be regular supervision.

If this sounds like the post for you please contact Lilian Wilcox (Team Leader) or Kath Lusty (Area Team Co-ordinator) for an informal discussion on 01-852 4591.

(C) LOCUM. Southern District Office
(Bellingham Team), SE6. REF SS137

£8,569-£11,151

We are looking for a qualified experienced social worker to replace the present post holder who commenced maternity leave in November, 1984.

The team is one of four Patch Teams in Southern District covering the Bellingham Estate plus some additional roads. Bellingham is a Local Authority Estate built in the 1920s mostly of cottage type houses and maisonettes. Our work is generic with high proportion of family work as well as with the Elderly and Physically Handicapped.

We would like to hear from interested candidates with experience in working with families whose children are at risk, as well as other client groups on a short-term contractual basis. Confidence and ability to slot into the Duty System would be an advantage. We offer sound support and regular supervision is given priority. Opportunity exists for group work and some liaison function with agencies on the Estate.

Lewisham is a multi-racial Borough and the Council are committed to meeting the needs of all members of the community.

For informal discussion please contact Sally Meredith (Team Leader) or John Bear (Area Team Co-ordinator) on 01-698 8112.

Job Share Post

Team Leader

Central District, SE6. Ref SS112(1)

(Job Sharing — 17½ hours)

£5,835-£6,306 approximately

The present Team Leader of a long-term team would now like to job-share on an equal basis. Both job-sharers would be expected to offer management and consultation on a day-to-day basis.

One would carry responsibility for work allocation and the major part of supervision whilst the other would be involved in team development and some supervision. There would be a need for good communication and rapport between the two people.

The team is made up of fairly experienced workers who have developed other methods of working outside the usual statutory limitations. They will be looking for someone who can build on this potential and be able to use imagination, enthusiasm and experience to help them develop further.

Applicants should be professionally qualified with at least three years' experience as a social worker and must be familiar with current mental health and child care legislation and practice. Experience of working in a multi-racial setting is essential. A leaflet explaining job sharing will be sent with application form. Informal enquiries to Eileen Strrett on 01-698 8121 ext 220 or Mike Allen ext 212.

Application form, returnable by 8th February, 1985, and detailed job description, from: Chief Personnel Officer, Town Hall, Catford, London SE6 4RU, or Tel 01-698 7666 (24-hour Answerphone service), quoting appropriate reference and job title.

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

Our jobs are open equally to all races and both sexes.

CHERWELL HOUSING TRUST

Work with adolescents in Oxford — a challenge! We are seeking a

DEPUTY MANAGER

with the special skills and qualities that are needed to assist in the running of a shared housing scheme for seven adolescents leaving care. This project provides both housing and care and support to develop individual independence and practical skills so as to enable residents to move on at their own pace to completely independent living.

We are looking for a responsible person with an enthusiasm for and some experience of working with adolescents. The successful applicant will be expected to deputise for the manager and assist with all aspects of the running of the scheme.

The post is non-residential, but sleeping in will be required on a regular basis. Salary £7,000 plus, depending on experience, age and qualifications. Application forms and further information from: General Manager, Cherwell Housing Trust, 106 Bullingdon Road, Oxford OX4 1RT, or ring (0865) 250692, Miss Howarth for an informal chat.

SELF HELP NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECT

66 Melton Road, Leicester LE4 6PN
Tel. 0533 688331

Require

DETACHED YOUTH WORKER

The applicant should have experience of Youth Work in a multi-racial setting. An Asian language and driving licence will be advantageous.

Application forms available from the above address. Closing date for applications February 15, 1985.

SOCIAL SERVICES A CHANCE TO USE YOUR MANAGEMENT SKILLS IN RESIDENTIAL CARE SECOND OFFICERS

Required to join teams working with children and young people in residential care. The posts carry responsibility for assisting in the management of the home and providing professional guidance to staff.

The postholders will also be involved in maintaining and developing good links with local schools, area social work teams and the local community.

Bedfordshire Social Services needs Second Officers at the following homes:

THE BARNES, 123 High Street, Kempston.
This is a well established, 18-place hostel for young people of working age, situated in Kempston, a town just two miles from the centre of Bedford, the county town.

Officer in Charge: Mr A Chandler, telephone Bedford 853477.

THE LODGE, 80 Bunyan Road, Kempston.
This is a community home in a modernised Georgian building, for 20 children or young people, situated in Kempston.

Officer in Charge: Miss M Hookin, telephone Bedford 852392.

HOLMEFIELD, 134 London Road, Biggleswade.
This is a modern, purpose built community home for 16 children, situated in Biggleswade, a pleasant country town.

Officer in Charge: Mr R Lambert, telephone Biggleswade 512202.

There are good road and rail services in the county as well as excellent educational, social and recreational facilities for families and young people.

Candidates for any one of these posts should ideally be experienced in residential social work and be appropriately qualified, but we would also like to hear from those with experience in teaching and other related disciplines, who feel that they have both the practical caring and managerial experience which would be applicable to these posts.

Applicants will be supplied with further details on each home, as well as a job description for Second Officers.

The salary is on a linked scale Grade 3/4 for The Lodge and Holmefield, and Grade 4/5 for The Barnes, and the range is currently £5,264 to £9,263 pa. For those with appropriate experience and qualification, it is likely that the starting salary will be within Grade 4, the minimum of which is currently £7,191 pa.

Contact Mr G Leese (Residential and Day Care Co-ordinator) on Bedford 45331 for further information and an informal discussion, or the appropriate Officers in charge on the telephone number given. Arrangements for visits to the establishments can be made at the same time.

For an application form and written further details, write on a postcard to Director of Social Services, Staffing Section, County Hall, Bedford.

Closing date 8th February, 1985.

The Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Bedfordshire
COUNTY COUNCIL

Research Assistant

£6,612-£7,737 (under review)

The Local Authorities Conditions of Service Advisory Board requires a Research Assistant to help conduct 1. Pay and Manpower Surveys which are undertaken in support of national pay negotiations. 2. A quarterly survey of local government employment. The work will include: design of survey forms, advice on their completion; checking, editing and presenting the data.

We require a person with at least a good Honours Degree; preferably in economics/industrial relations or related subject, who has an interest in manpower issues. Relevant work or research experience and familiarity with the handling of data, including by computers, would be an advantage.

LACSAB advises local government on manpower matters, collects, analyses and circulates pay and manpower data; and provides the employers' secretariats to the national negotiating bodies which determine the pay and conditions of over two million employees.

Applications form and further particulars are available from Carolyn O'Brien at LACSAB, 41 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8NZ (tel. 01-235 6061, ext. 206) to whom applications should be returned by Friday, February 8, 1985.

Local Authorities Conditions of Service Advisory Board

NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CLERK'S DEPARTMENT PROJECTS OFFICER

Salary Scale 5/6 £7,191 - £8,712 (pay award pending)

The Management Services Unit provides a comprehensive service to management in all Departments of the Authority specialising in work study, organisation and methods, systems reviews and computing projects. This post represents an excellent career opportunity in a Local Government environment.

Applicants should have analytical skills, the ability to think creatively, produce alternative solutions to management problems, and to communicate easily and clearly. A knowledge of computing and an understanding of its applications to a large organisation would be an advantage.

Applicants should ideally be graduates and must be car owners/drivers. Relocation expenses will be available in appropriate cases.

Application forms and further details are available from the County Personnel Officer, Chief Executive and Clerk's Department, County Hall, Marsh Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DH. Telephone (0693) 611122, ext 5357. For informal discussion please telephone Mr McCarthy, Projects Manager (ext 5183).

The closing date for completed applications is: February 8, 1985.

amnesty international TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR

We are looking for a lively trainer, preferably from the voluntary sector, who has experience of a wide range of training activities including induction, devising, organising, and running courses, contact with language teachers as well as assessing training needs and advising on career development.

Candidates should be flexible and sensitive to the needs of a multicultural staff. They should be able to communicate clearly in English; knowledge of French and/or Spanish an asset.

Candidates should be willing to work with new technology according to the appropriate agreement.

Salary £9,500 per annum (index-linked).

Reference No: PER 3.

For application form and further details, contact Personnel Office, Amnesty International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ or Tel 01-633 1771 ext 5147.

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is 23rd February, 1985.

Please quote reference number on all correspondence.

MANCHESTER City Council

HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Senior Tenancy Services Officer

SCALE 5 £7,191 - £7,885

The Department requires an officer to establish an effective advice, training and information service in its management of tenancies which considers the relationship between the tenant and the City Council at Manchester.

Some of the specific duties will include:

The provision of training and guidance manuals on legal matters and Housing Law, taking advice from the Town Clerk.

Provision of advice to Housing staff on specific cases in respect of Tenant and Landlord obligations.

Supervision of officers who present the Department's cases at Court and attendance at Court where necessary.

The granting of casual car user licences to under consideration.

Heat Management Officers

SCALE 5 £7,191 - £7,885

The City Council is committed to providing an energy efficient service in its communal heating schemes which is sensitive to the needs and means of its tenants.

Two officers are required to assist in the development of a sensitive charging policy including the development of a computerised heat accounting system.

These officers will also be involved in the training of staff in these areas and the development of training packages. This may also involve liaison with tenants and landlord groups.

They will also assist area-based staff in providing a preventative counselling service for heat debts; that will include convincing the City Council's policy to designate areas as "Hard to Heat" to include tenants' income.

Assistant Officers-in-Charge — Ashton House

S.S.E. 4 - £7,191 - £7,885 P.A. + 10 NIGHT RATE

These Vacant Posts — One established post and two new additional posts

Ashton House is a hostel for 130 single homeless women. As part of the City Council's strategy for the Single Homeless it is due to close and be replaced by a range of accommodation better suited to the needs and preferences of single homeless people. The job as advertised will change therefore, as closure of Ashton House approaches and replacements are developed.

You should have either experience of working with the single homeless or be able to display specific desire to do so. As part of a management team of eight you will be expected to help foster an atmosphere in which residents can achieve independence. In addition to this you would assist in the day-to-day management in the hostel administrative duties and liaison with the Single Homeless Persons Team and other agencies.

For informal discussions contact Lynn Allen, Officer-in-Charge, Telephone: 061-634 5375.

This is a re-advertisement and previous applicants will be considered and need not apply.

Assistant Officer-in-Charge — Walton House

SCALE 4 £7,191 - £7,885

(Two Additional Posts)

Walton House is a hostel for single men in Manchester; 200 beds are currently in use. It is the policy of the City Council to close this hostel over the next few years and replace it with a range of accommodation better suited to the needs and preferences of single homeless people. The job as advertised will change therefore, as closure of Walton House approaches and replacements are developed.

Duties include the support and care of residents, management of the hostel and liaison with the Single Homeless Persons Team. Applicants should possess the necessary administrative skills to assist in the management of the hostel. Experience of working with single homeless people would be an advantage. Commitment to their housing needs is essential.

You should be willing to work a three-shift system. The night shift, when worked, will entitle you to an extra payment of 100% of the normal basic rate.

Application forms and job descriptions are available from the Acting Director of Housing, Personnel and Training Officer, Room 3021, Town Hall, Manchester, M2 2YU. Tel: 061-224 4725. Closing date: 11th February, 1985.

The City Council operates a Local Membership agreement under which a new employee is required to become a member of a recognised Union.

Manchester City Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and we positively welcome applications from women and men, regardless of their race, colour, religion or national origin, disability, age, sexuality or responsibilities for dependants.

Social Services Department

Assistant Divisional Director

Services for the Mentally Handicapped

£14,916 - £15,900 p.a. inc.

This is a new post created in conjunction with Bloomsbury District Health Authority, the purpose of which is to manage and develop services for the mentally handicapped. Thanks to a computerised register of mentally handicapped people we now know the size of the problem.

We are looking for someone, appropriately qualified, with extensive experience in the field of mental handicap, who will be able to demonstrate an imaginative and resourceful approach to the development of services and the ability to provide management support to our Residential and Day Care Units. Other key elements are consultancy to other parts of the department and DHA's and liaison with local voluntary organisations.

For an informal discussion and further information please ring Ken Coleman, Divisional Director, on 01-828 8070 Ext 2297.

To obtain application form please send postcard, telephone or call at the Personnel Management Division (Ref: SS159), P.O. Box 240, Westminster City Council, City Hall, Victoria Street, London SW1E 6GP, telephone 01-834 5958 (24-hour answerphone service).

Closing date: 6th February, 1985.

KENISTON KENISTON HOUSING ASSOCIATION London Region DIRECTOR

Keniston is a lively Housing Association with a reputation for providing a high standard of services to its tenants. We are charitably based and are currently managing over 600 homes in London and the South East, including three sheltered housing schemes for the elderly. Our Head Office is situated in Islington and we have an area office in Farnborough, Kent. The Committee is now seeking to appoint a new Director to be responsible for all aspects of the Association's activities. This is an exceptionally challenging post requiring considerable commitment to housing and the vision to continue the development of Keniston's wider role in the communities it serves.

We are looking for an enterprising person with the energy and leadership skills necessary for the task. The Committee has no preconceptions about applicants' previous experience and background but will be looking for evidence of good organising ability, competence in financial planning and control and an attitude for fostering good relationships. Whilst previous housing experience will be an advantage, it is not essential.

For further details and application form, please apply to: Keniston Housing Association Ltd, 28 Junction Road, London N15, Tel: 01-272 4817. Closing date: Thursday, 7th February. First interviews will be held on Monday, 18th February.

Keniston is an Equal Opportunity Employer and applications are welcomed from members of all races, both sexes and registered disabled persons.

BRITISH YOUTH COUNCIL

BYC is the national representative forum for members of national and local voluntary youth organisations. We now require an energetic and dynamic person to head our staff team as

GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary is the senior member of staff in a full-time team of eleven. S/he will be responsible to the elected Executive for all aspects of the staff work and acts as the senior policy adviser to the Executive and Council.

Knowledge and experience of staff and financial management together with the ability to represent the Council to a wide range of individuals and agencies at a senior level will be required. The successful candidate should also have experience of youth affairs and is likely to be under 30.

Starting salary: £10,251 pa (incl. LW).

For further details and application form, send a large see to the General Secretary, BYC, 37 Chatham Street, London NW1 1HU.

Closing date for applications: 1 February 1985.

Interview date: 11 February 1985.

Principal Housing Associations Officer

PO4 £13,929-£14,916 inc

This is a key third tier post in Hammersmith and Fulham's Housing Directorate, responsible for all aspects of the work of the Housing Associations Unit and for policy development across a broad range of issues. In particular, this will involve the responsibility for Council's housing associations funding programme (approximately £5m in 1984/5) and co-ordination and liaison with housing associations operating in the Borough, with the Housing Corporation and related statutory and voluntary organisations.

You should have considerable experience of housing associations and be able to demonstrate an ability to operate with confidence at the most senior management levels. The capacity to work creatively and independently under pressure is essential (Ref: HAHA.1).

Essential user car allowance. Relocation expenses in appropriate circumstances.

Closing date: 4th February, 1985.

Estates Officer

SC5 £8,382-£9,087 inc

Would you like to join a lively and committed team of Estates Officers working in the Estates Management Division of a progressive Inner London Authority? You would be the Housing Directorate's prime point of contact with our tenants, and take responsibility for the day to day management of a patch of approximately 850 dwellings. Duties include tenancy matters, rent arrears, social problems, and assisting with estates modernisation programmes and other projects.

Ideally you should have some housing experience but we are equally interested in you if you have a concern for housing and its problems. We need you to work hard and to enjoy the challenge of being part of a dynamic organisation dealing with many complex problems. (Ref: HMHN18).

For more information contact Peter Fox 01-741 8461, ext. 211 or Ian Wilson 01-748 3020, ext. 5108.

Closing date: 30th January, 1985.

Application forms for London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (Personnel), Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith W6 8JL, telephone 01-741 0904 (24-hour answering service) quoting appropriate reference.

Developing Better Services for the Mentally Handicapped

We are committed to improving our facilities for mentally handicapped people. Our aim is to help them achieve individuality and independence within the community and ensure that their quality of life is enriched.

In order to bring our hostel in Goldhawk Road, W12 into line with new projects, the building is currently being substantially improved and we can now offer you the opportunity to participate in our plans to develop an ordinary home atmosphere for mentally handicapped people.

Deputy Officer in Charge

Salary: £9,087-£10,554 inclusive (pay award pending)

This post offers the challenge of initiating practice methods for creating individual programme plans, combined with supporting people to greater independence and gaining the maximum from local community resources.

It will be necessary for you to take full management responsibility on occasions, so you will need at least three years experience in the residential field, together with an appropriate qualification (CDSW or CSS) or to have a good educational background.

Residential Social Workers (2)

Salary: £7,944-£10,554 inclusive (pay award pending)

We have one permanent post and a temporary post for approximately 18 months to cover a secondment. You will need either a CDSW or CSS qualification, or have a good educational background, and be able to use life experience creatively to develop residents skills and abilities.

Application forms together with an information pack from Staff Section on 01-748 7820 (24-hour answering service) quoting reference D0K280 for Deputy Officer in Charge post; RSW280 for permanent RSW post; and (T) RSW280 for temporary RSW post. Closing date: 31st January, 1985.

Hammersmith & Fulham

An Equal Opportunity Employer

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

RESIDENTIAL & DAY CARE SERVICES

PO2 (Special) £15,033-£15,990 pa. (Pay award pending)

The Assistant Director will be part of, and in conjunction with the Departmental Management Team, will have opportunities to innovate and change the approaches to the delicate task of caring for people.

Applicants should be appropriately qualified and experienced to undertake specific responsibilities relating to the management of the Residential and Day Care Section including:

Long term planning; use of resources; public relations; staff development; training, communications. Design of service to special groups, senior staff appointments, maintenance of standards, promotional functions. Service within Community Schools and treatment settings. Policy development within other Committees and Community Groups. Capital Programme/Estimates. In consultation with Principal Assistant and Homes Adviser. Consultation with and supervision of staff within the section. Resettlement expenses available up to £1,000.

Application forms and job description available from Personnel Section, Social Services Dept., Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8PA. (Tel: 328520, Ext. 5376) to whom completed applications should be returned by 6th February, 1985.

City of Newcastle upon Tyne

This is an Equal Opportunities Advertisement.

Assistant Director (Fieldwork)

PO7 £15984 - £16980 inclusive

Do you want to be a senior manager in a department that is on the move? If so, you will wish to apply for this post which provides exciting opportunities for someone who has the flair, talent and application to grasp them.

The post, which becomes vacant in the spring of 1985 on the retirement of the present holder, carries responsibility for management of the Fieldwork Division. This comprises four area teams, a hospital social work team and the centrally located children's services and community services teams. The postholder is a member of the senior management group and is expected to contribute to departmental and corporate policy.

The postholder will have a relevant professional qualification, a high level of management skill and, most importantly, strong commitment to the aims of the personal social services.

For an informal discussion please telephone either David Plank, Director of Social Services ext 3503, or Barbara Lees, Senior Assistant Director ext 3504.

Application forms and further details from the Director of Personnel and Management Services, Civic Centre, Lampton Road, Hounslow TW3 4DN. Tel: 01-670 7728 ext 3807. Closing date 1 February 1985.

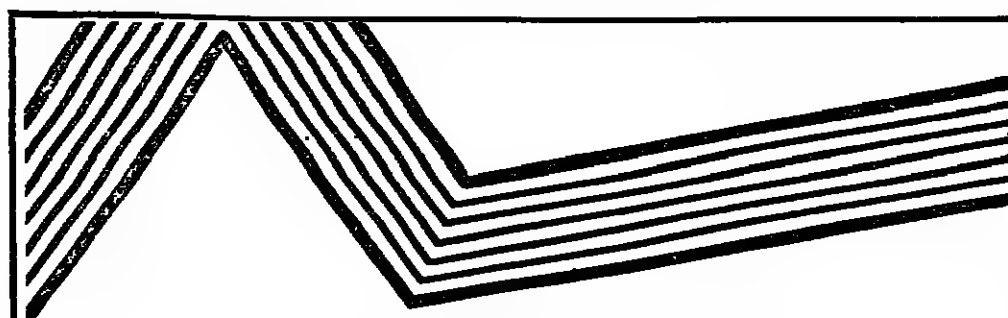
Hounslow

An Equal Opportunity Employer

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

The NSPCC's Headley Library requires a qualified Librarian to join a small and busy team providing a library service to NSPCC staff and an information service on child abuse. She/he should have at least two years' library experience, preferably in the social welfare field.



DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL SERVICES NEW INITIATIVES IN RACE RELATIONS

Race Relations Adviser

£12,330 to £13,365

Training Officer

£10,572 to £11,166

Greenwich Council sees the implementation of its Race Relations Strategy as a top priority. The Directorate of Social Services is fully committed to this strategy and is setting up a Race Relations Unit. Social Services has employed ethnic minority social workers since 1978 to work with Greenwich's Asian and Afro-Caribbean residents. The new unit will work with these communities and will contribute more to overall policy development and training within the Directorate. The Social Services Unit will work with the Race Relations Unit in the Chief Executive's Community Affairs Section and will have links with similar units in Housing and Leisure Services.

Race Relations Adviser

The person appointed will co-ordinate the work of the Race Relations Unit within the Directorate, will examine and advise on recruitment, promotion, training and client outreach policies within the Directorate, and will look at ways of improving service delivery to the Afro-Caribbean and Asian communities within Greenwich. The adviser will work closely with similar postholders in other Directorates and in particular with the Principal Race Relations Adviser in the Community Affairs Unit.

Applicants with a wide range of qualifications and/or experience will be considered for this post. Race Relations experience is particularly relevant and a background in social services or social administration would be an asset.

For further information telephone Ms C. Briscoe, Assistant Director (Central Support Services), Tel. 01-854 8888, ext. 3034.

Unit Team Members

£7,380 to £8,031 (incl.) Qual.

£6,267 to £7,380 (incl.) Unqual.

Lansdowne Lane Residential and Community Mental Health Centre, Charlton SE7

This newly built centre is developing a programme of mental health rehabilitation varying in time scale and methods used, according to individual client need. Two multi-disciplinary teams will be based there: one to work with clients using the longer term residential facility, the other to run a 24-hour crisis intervention service providing short term support in mental health and mental illness crises which can best be helped in a social work rather than a hospital setting. In conjunction with these facilities, it is planned to offer a community mental health and support programme for people interested in problems of mental health and illness in the Greenwich area.

Non-Resident Team Members — Long term residential rehabilitation unit

This 10-bed unit will aim to provide a planned and thoughtful setting in which the clients' needs, wishes and potential are central. It will work primarily with people who have been "institutionalised" in a variety of settings and who now wish to prepare and practice skills necessary for life in the community. The staff team (8.7 members) will work in a multi-disciplinary model in which the skills of members will be equally valued and utilised. An awareness of the psychodynamic factors which affect individual and group living will inform a programme based on goal-oriented work and care about individual's life experiences.

Applicants should possess experience in rehabilitative work in a hospital, residential or community setting. An imaginative and enthusiastic approach, based on a relevant practical and theoretical knowledge is required. Shift work on a rota basis together with some sleeping-in duties will be required.

Non-Resident Team Members — Crisis Intervention Unit

This unit will aim to provide a quick and effective assessment and intervention service in mental health and mental illness crises. It will offer a flexible service using residential, day care and outreach work to create individual plans for clients over a 4-6 week period. It will also offer support for other professionals in critical situations and provide a general mental health crisis information and advice service.

The unit will be operational 24 hours a day throughout the year, staffed by a multi-disciplinary team of up to 13 workers trained in a range of social work and psychiatric nursing skills, backed by the local GP service and consultant psychiatric support. The service will operate in a social work rather than a medical model. Applicants should possess recent experience of working in a mental health and/or mental illness crisis intervention setting in an "acute" hospital, residential or community setting. They should possess a thorough knowledge of the factors that precipitate such crises and of the assessment procedures and range of interventions appropriate to consider in a community practice setting. Shift work, including night duty for which an enhanced payment is made, is required for this post. For further information telephone Gill Brangwyn on 01-854 8888, ext. 3027 or Bus Gillheppie 01-854 8888, ext. 3057.

Application form from Director of Social Services, London Borough of Greenwich, Paddy Middleton House, 50 Woolwich New Road, Woolwich, London SE18 8HQ. Tel. 01-854 8888, ext. 3073. Closing date: February 6, 1985. THE COUNCIL POSITIVELY WELCOMES APPLICATIONS FROM WOMEN, ETHNIC MINORITIES AND DISABLED PEOPLE

GREENWICH
People and Services First

Metropolitan Borough of Calderdale SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT Senior Social Worker

SO2 £9,945 to £10,539 (pay award pending)

If you offer:

- * Substantial social work experience
- * Qualities of leadership, and
- * The ability to manage, and
- * A stimulating and beautiful Pennine environment.

We offer:

- * A senior vacancy in a Brighouse area which has three teams serving a mixed population of 52,000
- * An experienced staff group operating generally but with support from several specialists
- * A climate which encourages initiative and development
- * Realistic and systematically managed workloads, and
- * A stimulating and beautiful Pennine environment.

For informal discussion ring Ken Smith, Area Officer, on Brighouse (0484) 710821. For application forms contact Social Services Department, Wellesley Park, Gibbet Street, Halifax HX2 0BA. Telephone Halifax (0422) 63551. Closing date: February 7, 1985.

National Council of Voluntary Child Care Organisations and Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

Salary Range: £7455 — £8841 (including L.W.)

Fixed Term Contract

We are seeking a flexible, self-motivated person for a 1 year project to develop training programmes for those working in the field of adolescent care. Responsible for the day-to-day running of the project, you will be administrative and secretarial, typing involved. An imaginative and enthusiastic approach, based on a relevant practical and theoretical knowledge is required. London-based, the project covers England and Wales — some travel may be required. Further information/application forms from:

CHILD CARE, 3 Walsley Road, London EC1V 7UE. 01-423 3319. CLOSING DATE: 1 FEBRUARY 1985

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL, SW17 ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

We are setting up a Community Drug Advisory Department and we need an Administrative Secretary to join the five person team. Duties will include setting up and running a telephone advisory system, maintaining computerised record systems and giving support to the other team members. Typing is essential, as is a desire to play a central role in a developing department. This role offers the opportunity to gain experience for furthering your career in the NHS. We offer a salary of up to £7,000 per annum for the right person. For further information, please telephone Claire Leggett on 01-472 1265, Ext. 4088. Application forms and job descriptions are available from the Personnel Office on 757 2133 (24 hour service) please quote Ref. No. J52/23. Closing date: 6th February, 1985.

Second Principal Officer

is needed for
The Child Care Department
(Northern Region)

This new post is within the Northern Regional Management Team, based in Manchester, although as the field work supervision may be generally to the east of the Pennines it would be possible to be partly based in South or West Yorkshire.

This is a senior management post within the Regional Team and it is likely that the successful candidate will be professionally qualified in one or more of the following fields: Youth, Community, Social Work or Education. Experience of practice and innovation in child care work and of staff management is essential. Skills relating to intermediate treatment and/or staff development would be an advantage.

Salary: NJC Points 36-39
(£10,539 to £11,364) plus Car

For application form and job description please apply to: Graham Watkins, Regional Director North, The Save the Children Fund, Emery House, 195 Fog Lane, Burnage, Manchester M20 0FL. Tel: 061-434 8337. Closing date: 8th February, 1985.



COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SERVICES

is a section of Croydon Social Services Department formed as a partnership between the Borough and the District Health Authority. We currently have the following vacancies in the Community Development Team and the Volunteer Organisers Team.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Scale 6/501, £8,781 to £10,287 dependent on experience and qualifications. (Pay award pending. Salary includes £227 London Weighting).

An experienced community worker is needed to identify and respond to local needs and encourage the development of self-help initiatives. The CDD will join, and draw support from, a new borough-wide team of 19 community workers. The post-holder will work from the West Area Social Services Office and play a part in helping social workers to develop a greater community focus to their work. This diverse area of 60,000 people includes Central Croydon, a large Council estate and several recently diverse neighbourhoods. Experience in community development is essential and candidates should preferably have a qualification relevant to community work.

VOLUNTEER ORGANISER (Mental Health)

Scale 5, £6,781 to £9,339 dependent on experience and qualifications. (Pay award pending. Salary includes £227 London Weighting).

A qualified Volunteer Organiser is required in order to support and develop the contribution of volunteers in complementing the work of MENTAL HEALTH services provided by the Borough's Social Services Department and the District Health Authority. Responsibilities will also involve liaison with MIND and other voluntary organisations. The Volunteer Organiser will be part of, and draw support from, a team of seven colleagues.

Applicants should preferably have knowledge or experience of the mental health field and of work in developing volunteering. Qualifications relevant to mental health and/or to community work would be an advantage.

Closing date for both posts: February 7, 1985. Application forms, background material and job descriptions available from Social Services, Central Administration, Room 2.25, Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon, telephone 01-888 4433, extension 2377.



LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT

INNER AREA TEAM

TEAM LEADER

SALARY: £11,052-£12,087 (pay award awaited)

We are an Inner Area Programme Authority with a centrally based team responsible for the development, preparation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme.

You must be creative, have a degree or equivalent and have experience of Local Government working, gained from within or outside. An understanding of the voluntary sector is important. You must be able to work effectively with Elected Members, Senior Officers and other Agencies, including Central Government and Voluntary Organisations. A commitment to Equal Opportunities will be expected. Applicants should have an understanding and experience of Asian and Afro-Caribbean communities, since they make up about a quarter of the City's population and just under half of the population of the Inner City. Accordingly, applications are particularly welcome from Asians and Afro-Caribbeans. This is a challenging and demanding post that will provide experience of working in a corporate and community setting. The post demands working some unsocial hours. This is a re-advertisement; previous applicants need not re-apply. Assistance with relocation expenses up to a maximum of £2,075 and temporary housing accommodation are available in approved cases. Application form (returnable by February 4, 1985) and further details from Director of Personnel and Management Services, New Walk Centre, Watford Place, Leicester LE1 6DZ. Telephone (0533) 549222, extension 1204.



MILTON KEYNES MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

FULL-TIME DEVELOPMENT WORKER

(Five Years Financed)

Dynamic personality with appropriate experience sought to develop the role of this association, collaborating with local agencies in community services, public education and training.

Needs previous experience in the M.H. voluntary sector, preferably in housing, day-care, community work and report writing.

Initial salary £7,000. To commence April 1985.

For further information write before 31st January, 1985, to: Liz Ruddle, Farthing House, 74 Farthing Grove, Neatherfield, Milton Keynes MK6 4HT. Tel: Milton Keynes (0908) 657055.

CHILDREN'S COUNTRY HOLIDAYS FUND

DIRECTOR

The Children's Country Holidays Fund, founded in 1884, sends away 3,000 children from the Greater London Area for a two week holiday each year, to the country, in July and August.

We wish to appoint a new Director aged probably between 35 and 50 to head a small team based at our headquarters in York Street, London W1.

Candidates must have a record of proven administration together with an understanding of working with voluntary helpers.

Salary approximately £12,500 plus five weeks holiday.

Please reply to the Earl of Arran, Crocker End House, Nettlebed, Oxon.

RESIDENT S.R.N.

required as Matron with administrative responsibilities for old people's home. Catering for 66 men and women. Man and wife considered. Application forms from Secretary, Old People's Housing Association, Mountford Lodge, 25 Salford Drive, Liverpool L8 3SD. 0742 880014.

INFORMATION WORKER

Sheffield Advice Centre Group need a worker to help centre develop and use comprehensive Information Systems. Salary £540 — £590 Closing date: 15th February 1985. Further information from SACCO, Crookmead Community Centre, Crookmead Road, SHEFFIELD S18 3PF. 0742 880014.

MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Temporary Job Analyst

(Ref. M.68) Salary £9,345 — £10,851 p.a. Inc.

We are seeking an additional team member to join us around March-April during the maternity leave of one of our job analysts.

This post is part of a busy management services team involved in job evaluation and staffing and organisational reviews.

The duties include interviewing officers, compiling job descriptions, evaluating posts and preparing and presenting job evaluation appeals cases as well as conducting salary surveys and giving advice on grading issues.

The main requirements for this post are an analytical ability, a logical approach to problem solving and an experience of job evaluation, preferably using a points rated factor based job evaluation scheme. The successful applicant is likely to have a management services or possibly personnel background. A relevant qualification, while not essential, would be an advantage.

The post carries a casual user car allowance.

Individuals can apply for job sharing.

Application forms obtainable from the Personnel Officer, Directorate of Management Services, London Borough of Lambeth, 18 Brixton Hill, SW2 1 274 7722, Ext. 3020, Closing Date: 11th February, 1985.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Lambeth is one of the leading local Authorities in the childminding field and has developed a comprehensive range of innovative facilities for childminders and the children for whom they care.

Current plans to expand the service and support further its initiatives in providing day care in the borough's multi-cultural inner city community include the recruitment to the newly created posts described below. Each of the posts is to be centrally based initially at the Directorate's Headquarters at 81 Clapham High Street, London SW4. Developments to relocate both childminding teams to the Central Brixton area will, it is hoped, be completed early in 1985.

Team Leader

Ref. No. (SC517/A) £11,052 — £12,084 Incl.

The Team Leader will be responsible for the management of one of two teams of Social Workers (Childminding) serving the North-West and South-East of the borough. The Council's toy library service, salaried childminding and childminding sponsorship schemes.

Applicants must be able to show an aptitude for management of both staff and financial resources and have extensive experience and a thorough awareness of recent trends in the field of Day Care for under fives. Knowledge of current child care legislation and of child development — both theory and practice in the 0-5 age range is essential.

We are looking for someone who has not only worked in a multi-racial inner city environment but has proven ability to exhibit in their daily management style the anti-racist, anti-sexist approach considered appropriate to the team work.

Social Worker

Ref. No. (SC518/A) £7,944 — £11,433 Incl.

The successful applicant will join six Social Workers in the task of registering and supporting childminders in each of Lambeth's eight Social Services areas, by way of establishing a mutual support systems and maintaining childminders groups for the purposes of training.

Successful applicants for both posts will have proven experience of working with under fives and their parents/guardians, and of groupwork with women. A relevant qualification such as a CQSW or CSB is desirable but not essential. However, previous experience and the ability to implement innovative anti-racist and anti-sexist approaches to the work of caring for under fives is essential. Individuals can apply for Job Sharing.

For application form and job description, Telephone 01-827 0564. Closing Date: 6th February, 1985.

FOR SOCIAL SERVICES APPLICATION FORMS ONLY, PLEASE TELEPHONE 01-627 0564 (24 HOUR SERVICE) OR WRITE TO: THE RECRUITMENT SECTION, ROOM 500, 91 CLAPHAM HIGH STREET, LONDON, S.W.4.

Benefits for most posts advertised include flexible working hours, subsidised staff canteen, sickness and superannuation scheme, generous annual leave.

As part of Lambeth's Equal Opportunities Policy, applications are welcome from people regardless of race, creed, nationality, disability, age, sex, sexual orientation or responsibility for children or dependants.

LAMBETH

Finance and Examinations Officer

Grade SO.1 £9,060 — £9,660 p.a.

plus £877 (L.W. and Supplements)

Required at Willesden College of Technology, London NW10 to be responsible for the organisation and running of the College's Fees and Examinations Office.

The person appointed will also act as Deputy to the College's Chief Administrative Officer.

An ability to deal with people, together with an aptitude for figure work and detailed organisation are essential. Experience with a Local Authority or in a Further Higher Education Establishment would be an advantage.

Application forms and job descriptions from the Personnel Division, Room 1, Brent Town Hall Annex, Kings Drive, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 9BR returnable by 14th February. Telephone 01-903 0371 (24 hour Answerphone service). Reference number E/365 must be quoted.



HOUSING RIGHTS/RELIEF REFUGEE WORKER

Committed, energetic, experienced person required for Chiswick Family Rescue, a voluntary organisation comprising 3 refuges for abused women and children. Previous experience of housing, a thorough knowledge of Homeless Persons (1977) Act and relevant current legislation essential. The successful candidate should have an ability to identify the special needs of abused women, to interpret legislation and communicate effectively in writing and verbally. Duties mainly involve housing and welfare rights casework for women in predominantly London area, liaison with housing agencies and law centres, refuge work duties and participating in running of crisis line. Some evening/weekend work. Must be able to be part of a small friendly, supportive team. Salary based on experience.

For an application form and further details please telephone 01-747 0133 or write to: Sandra Horley, Director, Chiswick Family Rescue, Box 555, London W4. Closing date: 22nd February.

STONHAM HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD HOSTEL MANAGER HEREFORD

Our new purpose-built hostel, providing full board for 38 single homeless men and women is due to open in May. We are looking for a responsible and experienced person to manage the hostel and to be responsible for the welfare of residents and to be able to supervise all aspects of the hostel's running, including its staff and catering. This is a residential post with a salary of £7,896.

Closing date: 8th February, 1985. Further details and application form from: Stonham Housing Association, Imperial House, 100 High Street, Southwood Lane, CHELTENHAM GL50 2QH. Tel (0242) 529776.

EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

EAST HAMPSHIRE HANGERS: POST DP.33 —

WOODLANDS PROJECT OFFICER

3 Year Appointment Commencing 1st April 1985

Salary SO1 (£9,060 — £9,660 p.a.) (salary award pending)

The East Hampshire Hangers form an important feature in the landscape between Alton and Petersfield. The Hangers are extremely rich biologically and have notable associations with Gilbert White and Edward Thomas. The Hangers woods are now over-mature and under-managed; action needs to be taken swiftly if these beautiful woods are to be retained for future generations to enjoy.

Applicants are invited from people suitably qualified and experienced in woodland management who feel able to advise landowners on the best way of treating their woods with particular emphasis being given to landscape and wildlife conservation. The job will entail drawing up detailed management plans and putting them into action. If you would like to discuss the job further please telephone Roger Whalley on Petersfield (0730) 65551, Ext. 247.

Full details of the post and application forms can be obtained either by writing to the Chief Planning Officer at East Hampshire District Council, Paines Place, Durdurford, Petersfield, Hampshire GU31 4EX, or by telephoning his secretary Margaret Kemp on Petersfield (0730) 65551, Ext. 204. Completed application forms should be returned to the Chief Planning Officer, under confidential cover, by no later than Monday, 11th February 1985.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT

Co-operative Development Officer

£11,952-£12,844 p.a. (incl. L.W.A) (pay award pending)

We are seeking an experienced, committed person with a practical approach in advising and assisting potential co-operators to set up co-operatives, helping them through the drawing up of a business plan to producing a package for, and achieving funding.

You will be working closely with both the Council and the local Enterprise Agency, and, whilst we are looking for general business skills, there is a particular need to complement the skills of the present, and nearest specialists with someone with the ability to work in the community, especially with women's groups, to enable women to take advantage of the co-operative training and funding packages available to them through the Council and other organisations. However, you will need to be able to show that you can critically assess applications to the Council for funding.

Application form (and further details) from and to be returned to: Departmental Staffing Officer, Room 207, Town Hall, Exeter Road, London NW1 2NU. Tel: 01-457 9998 (Answerphone) quoting reference no. 1A/2555. Closing date: 11th February, 1985.



equal opportunity employer

Applicants are considered on the basis of their suitability for the post, with equal opportunities for women, black/ethnic minorities, lesbians and gay men and people with disabilities, and regardless of marital status, age, creed/religion and unrelated criminal conviction. All posts are open for job-sharing.

ALONE IN LONDON SERVICE

SOCIAL WORK CO-ORDINATOR

Salary SO2 £11,136 — £11,730 (pay award pending)

To support and co-ordinate Alone in London Service's social work and to act as deputy to the Director. We are a well established expanding project providing advice, support and accommodation for young single homeless people. Experience of social work and staff supervision is essential, as well as the ability to inspire and motivate.

For further details and application form write or telephone: Alone in London Service, 54 Richards House, 114 Eversholt Street, London NW1. Tel: 01-357 6194.

Closing date for applications 15 February 1984.

STONHAM HOUSING ASSOCIATION

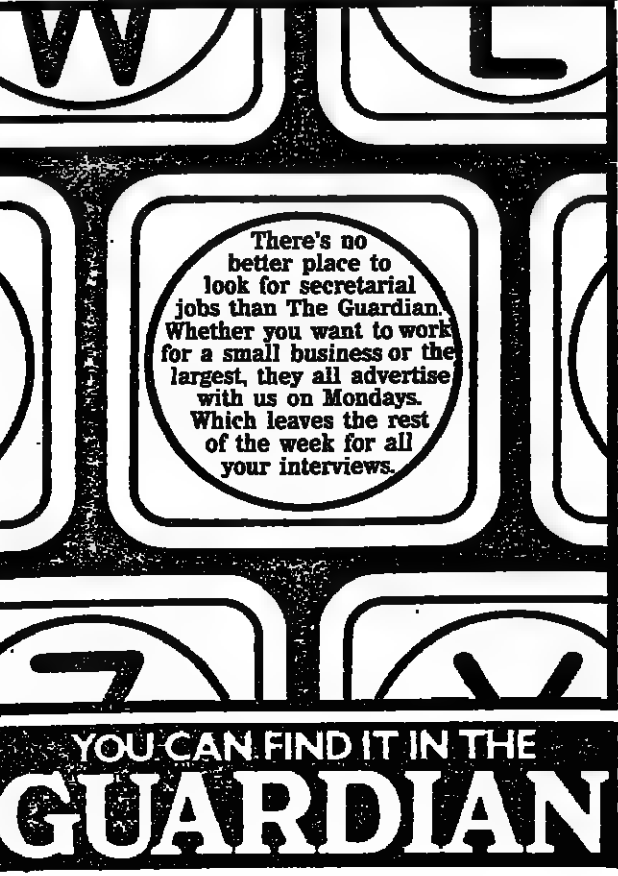
BIRKENHEAD PROJECT FOR SINGLE HOMELESS PEOPLE

SENIOR PROJECT WORKER

To share responsibility for the management of a new 20-bed hostel in Birkenhead. Applicants must have considerable experience of this type of residential work. Full driving licence an advantage.

Interested parties should write to the Secretary, providing the usual personal details, curriculum vitae, and reasons for interest in the appointment. They will be contacted unless otherwise indicated. Salary £7,191 p.a.

Please send completed applications to the Hon Secretary, Mrs J. Buck, Stonham Housing Association, 63 Argyle Street, Birkenhead, Merseyside. Closing date: 13th February.



There's no better place to look for secretarial jobs than The Guardian. Whether you want to work for a small business or the largest, they all advertise with us on Mondays. Which leaves the rest of the week for all your interviews.

YOU CAN FIND IT IN THE GUARDIAN

PUBLIC

SERVICES FOR ASIAN AND AFRICAN COMMUNITIES
Social Work
Day Care

Assistant Manager

Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Young Person

HOUSING
Young Person

benefits Adviser
SOUTHWEST GREENWICH

Welfare Rights
£7,891 — £9,339 (Under)

QUALITY ACCOUNT

STONHAM HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD
HOSTEL MANAGER
HEREFORD

Our new purpose-built hostel, providing full board for 38 single homeless men and women is due to open in May. We are looking for a responsible and experienced person to manage the hostel and to be responsible for the welfare of residents and to be able to supervise all aspects of the hostel's running, including its staff and catering. This is a residential post with a salary of £7,896.

Closing date: 8th February, 1985. Further details and application form from: Stonham Housing Association, Imperial House, 100 High Street, Southwood Lane, CHELTENHAM GL50 2QH. Tel (0242) 529776.

CLOSING DATE: MONDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 1985

SERVICES

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Personnel Office: London Borough 722, Ext. 3020.

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FORMS ONLY: 4 (24 HOUR

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is from the Personnel Office, Kings Drive, by 14th February

one service). Reference

WATFORD needs a professional qualified officer to head a multi-discipline department that provides the technical services of the Borough Council, including engineering, surveying, architecture, quantity surveying, planning and building control.

The Director will also play a significant part in the corporate management of the Borough Council under the direction of the Chief Executive and Town Clerk, alongside other chief officers. There is job satisfaction beyond measure, albeit the Director will be operating in a very demanding atmosphere.

Temporary housing available and assistance with legal costs if purchasing/selling a dwelling. Reasonable removal expenses paid in full. Car and telephone allowances.

Anyone interested in this challenging appointment should ask for details and an application form, to be returned by 11th February, 1985, from the Personnel and Management Services Officer, Town Hall, Watford WD1 3EX (Tel Watford 26400 ext 213).

Watford Borough Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer

BOROUGH OF WATFORD

SERVICES FOR ASIAN AND AFRO-CARIBBEAN PEOPLE

Social Worker Day Care Adviser

The Social Services Department is committed to building up appropriate Social Services for the Asian and Afro-Caribbean community and in consultation with local community groups. These posts have specific responsibilities and also combine with other specialist posts in the Division to influence and advise on departmental policy and practices in relation to ethnic groups. The posts are established under Section 11 of the Local Government Act, 1966, and the major part of the time will be devoted to Section 11 work although some other tasks will be undertaken.

SOCIAL WORKER £8,753 with possible progression to £9,580. Post No. E478.

A qualified Social Worker is required for this post in a Social Work Team in the Children and Families Group. Good supervision and support is available. The person appointed will carry a case load and assist in the development of appropriate social work services. Informal enquiries to Mr L. Klein, Tel. Reading 586111.

DAY CARE ADVISER £8,264 with possible progression to £7,998 if qualified. Post No. E489.

We are seeking a person with a special interest and knowledge of services for the under fives and preferably with a qualification and experience in a related field. The person appointed will help to develop appropriate child minding, play group and nursery services and assist in the approval, support and supervision of these resources. Informal enquiries to Miss S. Taylor, Tel. Reading 586111.

These posts offer an exciting opportunity for applicants of Asian or Afro-Caribbean background to participate actively in developing services in Reading. Application forms from Personnel Section, Social Services Department, 7 Cheapside, Reading, Berks. Tel. Reading 586111, Ext. 500.

Assistant Manager

£17,191-£7,896

We are looking for an Assistant Manager to assist us in the continued development of innovative and integrated programmes of Education, Work/Work Experience, Social Training / Recreation at Newbury Adult Training Centre.

The Assistant Manager will join with the Manager and his Deputy in the management of the Centre. Initially the person appointed will take responsibility for the workshop programme but programmes are integrated and changes of responsibility would be made to meet needs as they arise. A professional qualification is essential and would include C.S.S., D.T.M.H.A., C.Q.S.W. or Teacher's Certificate, coupled with experience of working with mentally handicapped people.

Informal enquiries would be welcomed by Gordon Taylor, Manager, Tel. Newbury 43888. Application forms from Personnel Section, Social Services Department, Pelican House, West Street, Newbury, Tel. Newbury 46545.

* National Pay Award under negotiation
Closing date for all posts: February 8.

Royal County of Berkshire

HOUSING OFFICER (Young Persons)

£8,382-£9,087 pa incl (pay award pending)

Are you an experienced Playleader who wants to come in from the cold?

The Royal Borough provides play centres in each of its two largest housing estates and also runs seasonal holiday play schemes.

We require an experienced person to join our Special Projects Team to take responsibility for all our play work, including management of play centres and their staff; supporting and encouraging new initiatives in play; and planning and overseeing the operation of a number of seasonal holiday play schemes and temporary staff.

You will also be responsible for the finances of the play schemes and write occasional reports.

The job would suit someone with wide experience of inner city play work who wishes to gain experience in the management and administration of play. Previous local government experience would be an advantage.

If you have the skills we require, please contact Nina Jenkins on 01-937-5464 ext 608 for an informal discussion.

The Royal Borough of KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

Application forms and further details quoting Ref G421XT from the Personnel Service, The Town Hall, Horton Street, London W8 7ND. Tel 01-937 5464 ext 656. Closing date for applications: 7th February, 1985.

WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

Benefits Advice — SOUTHWEST GREENWICH

Workers are required to set up and run a new project offering Welfare Rights Advice to people living on four large Council Estates in the Southwest of the London Borough of Greenwich. The posts are funded by Greenwich Council. The project will be managed by local people. An equal opportunities employer we are particularly keen to encourage applications from women, black people, gay people, people with disabilities and the unemployed. Job sharers and people who want part-time work are also encouraged to apply.

Welfare Rights Workers (2½ posts)

£8,781 — £9,339 (Under Review)

Will be expected to set up and run advice sessions in Community Centres and Halls on all four of the estates. Campaigning work, particularly around the issues of tenants and the take-up of benefits will be an important part of the jobs. Experience of Advice Work would be an advantage but not essential as comprehensive in-service training can be provided.

Application forms and further details from: Greenwich Welfare Rights, 6th Floor, Riverside House, Beresford Street, Westcombe SE18.

Tel: 01-654 6664 Ext. 2050.
Closing date, 8th February, 1985.

Assisted by GREENWICH People and Services Unit

NEWYDD HOUSING ASSOCIATION LIMITED

QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT

We require an energetic and imaginative person to be responsible to the Director for all the financial and administrative aspects of the work of this South Wales Association.

He or she will be the Principal Officer in a team of six.

Salary scale (NCS) £9,845-£12,067 subject to review.

Application form and further details from: Andrew MacBean, Director, Newydd Housing Association Limited, 50 Avenue Road, Llanelli, CF23 1DF.

CLOSING DATE: MONDAY, 4th FEBRUARY, 1985.

MANCHESTER City Council

HOUSING DEPARTMENT

HOMELESS FAMILIES RECEPTION OFFICER

—4 POSTS

SALARY SCALE 5—£7,191-£7,896

Manchester City Council is seeking to increase its commitments to homeless families. The first step which the Council is taking towards realising these new commitments is the immediate re-establishment of four posts in the Homeless Families Section.

The Council has also recently adopted a series of policies which will ensure that full and sympathetic services are made available to homeless families.

For these demanding jobs we will be looking to appoint applicants who are both compassionate and clear thinking to advise homeless and potentially homeless families on the service which the City Council can make available to them.

Meeting the immediate needs of homeless people is stressful work. As full training will be given to the successful applicants, no formal qualifications are essential. Experience of homelessness or housing need would be an advantage.

Applicants should be resilient and able to understand and respond positively to the considerable amount of distress and disturbance which homelessness can create. Should you be interested in taking part in this initiative applications are available from: Acting Director of Housing, Personnel and Training Officer, Town Hall Extension, Level 2, Room 2021, Manchester. Tel: 061-234 4724. Closing Date: 11 February, 1985.

The City Council operates a Union Membership agreement under which a new employee is required to become a member of a recognised Union.

Manchester City Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and we positively welcome applications from women and men, regardless of their racial, ethnic or national origin, disability, age, sexuality, or responsibilities for dependants.

SERVITE HOUSES LIMITED HOMES ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Salary c £9,450

Servite Houses, a registered housing association and charity, wishes to appoint a Homes Administration Officer. The person appointed will have particular responsibility for:

(a) supporting the staff in our residential homes for the elderly, Day Centre for the Elderly etc;

(b) interviewing and assessing individual applicants and ensuring that residents get the maximum statutory financial help to which they are entitled;

(c) ensuring that high standards of care are maintained;

(d) assisting in the preparation and monitoring of budgets.

The person will be responsible to the Hon Director and will liaise closely with staff involved in developing new projects in this field. This is a new position as a result of expansion in this area of our work.

Experience in the care of the elderly, particularly Local Authority or Voluntary Sector an advantage.

An essential car user allowance, in accordance with NJC scales, will be paid.

For further details and an application form please contact: The Personnel Administrator, SERVITE HOUSES LIMITED, 125 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 3RP, Tel 01-770 5466.

Closing date for the return of completed application forms is Friday, 15th February, 1985.

Blackwater Valley Project (Sports Council)

Sport & Recreation Development Officer

Scale S01 £3060 — £3660 (pay award pending)

This newly created post offers a unique opportunity to play a major part in the development of opportunities for water and land-based sport and recreational activities in the Blackwater Valley, particularly related to the use of restored gravel pits.

This post is part of the Blackwater Valley Project Team which works on behalf of the 10 Local Authorities in the area and is grant-aided by the Sports Council.

It is based at Rushmore Borough Council's Offices at Farborough, Hants. The Officer will be expected to show initiative and be self-motivating. The successful applicant will have had substantial relevant experience and/or hold a recreational qualification; a current driving licence is required.

Housing accommodation may be available in appropriate cases. Full removal expenses and other agreed relocation expenses are paid in accordance with the Council's scheme. An essential user car allowance is payable.

Application form and job description are available from the Personnel Officer, Council Offices, Farborough Road, Farborough, Hants, tel Farborough (02929) 51600 ext 211, to be received back by Friday 8th February 1985.

Borough of RUSHMOOR

Director of Technical Services

£21,645-£23,781

WATFORD needs a professionally qualified officer to head a multi-discipline department that provides the technical services of the Borough Council, including engineering, surveying, architecture, quantity surveying, planning and building control.

The Director will also play a significant part in the corporate management of the Borough Council under the direction of the Chief Executive and Town Clerk, alongside other chief officers. There is job satisfaction beyond measure, albeit the Director will be operating in a very demanding atmosphere.

Temporary housing available and assistance with legal costs if purchasing/selling a dwelling. Reasonable removal expenses paid in full. Car and telephone allowances.

Anyone interested in this challenging appointment should ask for details and an application form, to be returned by 11th February, 1985, from the Personnel and Management Services Officer, Town Hall, Watford WD1 3EX (Tel Watford 26400 ext 213).

Watford Borough Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer

BOROUGH OF WATFORD

ROYAL NATIONAL COLLEGE (Further Education for the Blind and Partially Sighted)

WARDEN

Required for September to supervise a Hall of Residence for men in this F.E. College for 220 visually handicapped students aged 16 to 30 years or more.

Initiative, understanding and integrity are needed from care staff, who play a key part in a team preparing students for open employment or higher education. Driving licence essential. The post is residential and a single flat is provided.

Salary: N.J.C. 14 - 18, (£5,493 to £8,135, increase pending). Contributory Pension Scheme and B.U.P.A. membership.

Early application with curriculum vitae and the names of two referees to: Lance Marshall, MA, FBIM, Principal, Royal National College, College Road, Hereford HR1 1EB, from whom more detailed information can be obtained.

I/V'S VACANCIES IN THIRD WORLD DEVELOPMENT

BOTSWANA
Coordinator for Forestry Association
Technical Information Officer.

LESOTHO
Engineers for Labour Intensive Construction,
Engineers for Pot Latrine Project,
Signal Workshop Manager/Technician,
Printed Textiles Instructors.

SWAZILAND
Building and Carpenter Instructors,
Building Supervisor Print Workshop Manager,
Psychiatric Charge Nurse / Clinical Instructor/Physio / Occupational Therapist,
Administrator for Community Development Projects.

MOZAMBIQUE
(Minimum 2 years post qualification work experience)
Agriculturalists; Foresters; Engineers; Craftsmen e.g. Potter-Turners; Mechanics with lathe turning experience; Building Supervisors; Economists; Planners; Architects; Accountants; Adult Educators; E.P. & Science Teachers; Doctors; Nurse-Tutors; Medical Laboratory Technicians.

Also Ideas and Primary Teachers; Remedial Teachers; U.P. Teachers; and of secondary level Maths, Technical Design, Geography and English Teachers for the International School in Maputo

2 year contract including modest living allowance and flights.
Regular home funding available for dependants.
Applicants must be resident in the UK or Ireland.

Write for details including a short cv and large size 3x5 to: I/V'S, International Service, 620, 53 Regent Road, Leicester LE1 5YL.

GRANSTOWN PROJECT 85

ONE SENIOR WORKER & ONE STAFF MEMBER

Required for this exciting new project based in South London. A second stage residential house for ex-convicts offering social skills training, group work and help with resettlement. Experience in these areas essential. The post is non-residential.

Salary £7,571 to £8,267, according to qualifications and experience.

For further information and application forms for the above posts apply to: The Administrator, Granstown Projects, Roslyn Park, Priory Lane, Rothampten, London SE16 5SL. Tel. 01-478 0108. Closing date: February 8, 1985.

We are an Equal Opportunities employer.

ARAM HOUSE

a hostel for elderly Asian men in Newham offers a post of

WARDEN / COMMUNITY WORKER

SALARY £7,500 p.a.

Knowledge of Asian languages and experience of working with Asian community essential.

For further details and application form, write to: Urmarsh Desai, 236 Romford Road, Forest Gate, London E7, or ring: Karun Thakur at 01-551 6421.

Closing date 11th February 1985.

SHEFFIELD

AGAINST RATE CAPPING FOR THE RIGHT REASONS.

Interested in preventing HARASSMENT of private tenants?

LANDLORD AND TENANT RELATIONS OFFICER

S02 £9,945-£10,539

Sheffield Housing Aid Centre require a Lawyer/experienced Advice Worker for the above new post.

Will be required to undertake educational/preventative work as well as individual case work. We are looking for someone with experience of housing law and practice from a Law Centre or similar background.

This is a re-advertisement and previous applicants will automatically be considered.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, CONTACT JUDY NIXON, HOUSING AID MANAGER, HOUSING AID CENTRE, TOWN HALL, SHEFFIELD S1 1WA, TEL: 0742-755452. CLOSING DATE 22ND FEBRUARY.

City of Sheffield

An Equal Opportunity Employer

DEPUTY PATIENT SERVICES CO-ORDINATOR (PHYSICAL HANDICAP)

This is a key appointment in a national medical research charity (London SW4). We are looking for a lively, resourceful and enthusiastic Health Visitor or Occupational Therapist (minimum age 25) with experience as member of a health care team and with special knowledge / experience in the field of physical handicap.

The person appointed will be responsible for maintaining and developing existing welfare activities. This includes organisation of medical seminars, preparation of welfare and educational literature; arrangements for the provision of help, advice and guidance to professionals and families of sufferers.

We are looking for natural authority, administrative flair and warmth of personality. Some travel involved. Salary negotiable.

Write with c.v. to: Miss Anne Sheehan, Patient Services Co-ordinator, Muscular Dystrophy Group, 35 Mascall Road, London SW4 0QP.

Strathclyde

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT OFFICER-IN-CHARGE

Wallacewell Children's Home
70 Wallacewell Quadrant, Glasgow G21
Salary scale: Res. 7 — £9,660-£10,554

Applicants should preferably hold a recognised Social Work qualification and have experience in working with children and adolescents in a management or supervisory role. Wallacewell is a purpose-built Children's Home divided into three caring units, each headed by a Senior Houseparent.

The majority of the children are between 14 and 17 years of age and training for independent living is a clear priority within the Home.

Application forms may be obtained from the Assistant Director of Manpower Services, Glasgow Sub-Region, Strathclyde House (8), India Street, Glasgow G2 4PT, to whom completed forms, quoting Ref. G3736, should be returned by February 6, 1985.

R. M. O. McCULLOCH, Director of Manpower Services

Strathclyde Regional Council

VOLUNTARY ACTION LEWISHAM

The Lewisham Council for Voluntary Service, which exists to co-ordinate, inform and develop community groups and voluntary organisations and enable them to influence the development of Council policy, wishes to appoint:

CO-ORDINATOR

£10,854-£11,981 inclusive (pay award pending)
The Co-ordinator (a new and challenging post) will lead the team of full- and part-time staff.

V.A.L. has been restructuring and reviewing its policies and practice to ensure it is an anti-racist, anti-sexist organisation, meeting the needs of this multi-racial London Borough. This is a unique post to help re-shape V.A.L.'s policies for the future, liaising closely with the Lewisham Council, co-ordinating strategies for the voluntary sector to defend itself against "cuts" and develop appropriate policies and campaigns from Anti-Racist Year (1984).

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER

£9,063-£9,621 inclusive (pay award pending)
The Community Development Worker is required not only to help develop community groups (particularly within the black community), forums, campaigns, etc., but to assist other 'white' dominated groups to develop anti-racist and anti-sexist policies and practices. A grant application has been submitted to expand V.A.L.'s community development work.

Applications are welcomed from women and men, whether disabled or able bodied, regardless of sexual orientation. However, as the workforce has historically been comprised of one racial group, we particularly welcome applications from black women and men. (Section 38(1) (b) Race Relations Act applied.)

Further details from Voluntary Action Lewisham, 120 Rushey Green, Catford, London SE8 4HQ (01-690 4343, Ext 326).

CLOSING DATE FIRST POST MONDAY, 11th FEBRUARY, 1985.

The Management Centre

TRAINER TRAINING

Applications are invited from experienced and qualified people to join the Training Technology Division. The Division is concerned with the training and development of people fulfilling training roles through open and "tailor-made" programmes, consultancy and resource development. Activities take place at a wide range of locations throughout both the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the world.

Applicants should possess a variety of proven training skills and the ability to work both as a member of a team and independently.

LII/SL IN ELECTRONICS

Applications are invited from people with a degree or equivalent academic or professional qualification, and recent experience in electronics, microelectronics or communications engineering in industry or the Armed Forces to teach on HNC/HND electronics and communications engineering courses.

Salary scale for both posts LII/SL £7,848-£12,066-£14,061, plus local allowance of £238 p.a.

For further details and an application form please send an A5 size to: The Vice Principal, Slough College of Higher Education, Wellington Street, Slough SL1 1YG. Closing date: 31st January, 1985.

An equal opportunities employer

Slough College

HARDING HOUSING ASSOCIATION

HOUSING MANAGER

Salary circa £13,000

The Association has a stock of 850 rehab units in inner London and is currently looking for a progressive and qualified Housing Manager.

The applicant must be capable of providing guidance control and organisation of existing management team to ensure the maximum efficiency of the section.

Letters of application and cv to the undersigned by Monday, 4th February, 1985.

The Director
HARDING HOUSING ASSOCIATION
39 East Hill, London SW18
Telephone 01-870 7577

Is your future in the stars — or



LAKE DISTRICT SPECIAL PLANNING BOARD

National Park Officer

Applications are invited for the post of Chief Officer of the Board which is the National Park Authority's planning body for the country's largest National Park. The post requires proven managerial ability and a wide experience of countryside matters. It is not restricted to any particular profession but the qualities required are unlikely to be found in persons who do not hold a degree, or a professional qualification, or a management qualification, followed by at least 10 years relevant experience.

Local Government experience at a senior level and knowledge of the National Park System in England and Wales will be at a distinct advantage but persons who have gained relevant management experience in other fields will be considered.

Salary scale: £24,180 x 606 (4) to £26,604 p.a. (subject to review).

Conditions of service and superannuation entitlements appropriate to Local Government Chief Officers.

Further details with application form and job description may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, Lake District Special Planning Board, Telephone No. Kendal 24555 Ext. 241.

Completed applications must reach the National Park Officer, Lake District Special Planning Board, Bushier Walk, Kendal by 22nd February, 1985.

Interviews will take place in week commencing 25th March, 1985.

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT THE GREENWOOD ADULT TRAINING CENTRE

Deputy Manager

£10,251-£10,851 pa (incl LWA)
(pay award pending)

We are looking for a person with CSS + Mentally Handicapped Teaching Diploma or an appropriate qualification to co-ordinate the Centre's programme to ensure that mentally handicapped people using the facility are offered a varied and appropriate programme enabling them to develop their individual potential.

You will be responsible for managing a complex programme provided by a large team of staff. A participatory style of management will be expected and you will need considerable experience and knowledge of mental handicap, good management and administrative skills, and be able to provide effective staff supervision and support.

The clients come from various cultural backgrounds, therefore applicants from black and ethnic minority groups will be particularly welcome.

Informal inquiries to Carol Scott, Centre Manager, on 01-267 4508.
Application form from and to be returned to: Director of Social Services, Willing House, 356/364 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8BH, or Telephone: 01-837 5621 (Ansafone) quoting Ref No 10/35/G. Closing date: 11th February, 1985.



Applicants are considered on the basis of their suitability for the post, with equal opportunities for women, black/ethnic minorities, lesbians and gay men and people with disabilities, and regardless of marital status, age, creed, religion and unrelated criminal conviction. All posts are open for job-sharing.

VICTORIA HEALTH AUTHORITY

HOUSE EDUCATION OFFICER

Salary scale 4: £8,799-£10,473 incl.

Applications are invited from candidates with a background in House Education, the NHS, training or education for this exciting post.

The successful candidate will be expected to develop resources, material, in-service training and education. An ability to work with a wide range of people is essential.

For an informal discussion please contact Nicky Tawson, Senior House Education Officer, 01-351 5495.

For a job description and an application form please contact Kim Taylor, 1-5 Osbert Street, London SW1, 01-628 9611, ext. 483.

Closing date for completed applications February 6, 1985.



OPPORTUNITIES IN MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

£5,520 - £8,360
p.a. inclusive

We are looking for intelligent young people seeking a career in accountancy joining a well established computerised department. Successful candidates will be given their own area of responsibility while assisting senior officers in the department. Help will be given towards relevant professional studies.

If you are educated to 'A' level or degree level then contact District Personnel Department, Central Middlesex Hospital, Acton Lane, London, NW10 7NS. Telephone 01-995 5733, ext. 2978.

For further information of these posts please Mr. Farmer, Senior Assistant District Treasurer on 01-995 5733 ext. 2912.

Closing date: 6th February, 1985.

Brent Health Authority working for Equal Opportunities.

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Closing date: 6th February, 1985.

CYMRITHAS TAI ABERTAW CYF SWANSEA HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD

HOUSING MANAGER

(£9,060 - £10,539)

Pay award pending (£9,465 - £11,010)

The Association has a vacancy for an enthusiastic and dedicated person to head its Housing Management section and to pursue its Special Project initiatives in the Swansea area.

The successful candidate will be skilled in all aspects of Housing Management and will be particularly aware of the problems associated with management in inner city areas.

It is anticipated that interviews will be held in late February and that the appointment will be effective from March or April, 1985.

Further details and application forms can be obtained from: J. D. Firkin, The Director, Swansea Housing Association, 63 Mansel Street, Swansea SA1 5TN.

HOUSING DEPARTMENT

FINANCE OFFICER

Salary £11,052-£12,087 (pay award pending)

This fourth tier post offers an ideal opportunity for an ambitious and highly motivated individual who is looking for a challenge and the chance to play a major role in a multi-disciplinary department. The successful applicant will lead the department's finance unit which employs 40 staff and is responsible for estimating and budgetary control, costing, payment of salaries, wages and creditor accounts, stock control and stores accounting. He/she will also be responsible for the preparation of tenders and quotations for, and monitoring the effectiveness and competitiveness of, the department's direct labour organisation under the requirements of the Local Government Planning and Land Act, 1980.

The person appointed must therefore have broad practical experience in financial management in a similar environment and also be able to demonstrate organisational and supervisory skills and be a self-starter and innovator. Candidates are likely to be members of an appropriate accountancy body.

Assistance with relocation expenses up to a maximum of £2,075 and temporary housing accommodation are available in approved cases.

Application form (returnable by 8th February) and further details from Director of Personnel and Management Services, New Walk Centre, Welford Place, Leicester LE1 6ZG. Tel (0533) 544922 ext 7084.

LEICESTER

CITY COUNCIL

SOLDEN HILL HOUSE

Byfield, Northampton

Based on the work of Rudolf Steiner

We are looking for a

RESIDENT CRAFT INSTRUCTOR

for our Pottery who has, ideally, had training and experience with mentally-handicapped adults. We need a patient, enthusiastic person, who is also willing to help in all aspects of caring for our 30 young men. We also require a

RESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT

to live and work on the same basis. Minimum age 22 years in both cases.

Please write for further information, giving very full details of previous training and experience, to:

The Principal

Solden Hill House

Byfield

Daventry

Northants NN11 6UA

SENIOR ENGINEER

(PUBLIC TRANSPORT CO-ORDINATION)

Transportation Division Ref. no: ENG/5336/T3

Salary scale 501/2: £9,060-£10,539 (pay award pending)

To assist in advising on all aspects of the County Council's responsibilities in respect of public transport, particularly those arising from the Transport Act, 1978, and in executing the Council's policy.

Candidates will require experience of the planning of public transport systems, their regulations, financing and traffic management measures related to public transport. Knowledge of computer applications is desirable. Membership of the Chartered Institute of Transport or an appropriate degree an advantage.

Further details and application form, returnable by 14th February, 1985, from Director of Personnel (Tel: Bristol 298565 - Ansafone on this number after office hours), PO Box 270, Avon House, The Haymarket, Bristol, BS99 7HE.

Avon is an equal opportunities employer.

Please quote reference number.

Highways & Engineering Department.

For further information of these posts please Mr. Farmer, Senior Assistant District Treasurer on 01-995 5733 ext. 2912.

Closing date: 6th February, 1985.

Brent Health Authority working for Equal Opportunities.

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Brent Health Authority working for Equal Opportunities.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF Y.M.C.A.S

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

FOR WOLVERHAMPTON

Applications are invited from persons qualified in Youth and Community Work, or a related discipline, for this exciting and challenging new post. The person appointed will be required to re-establish Y.M.C.A. work in Wolverhampton. The post will be a full-time position and will be responsible for the development of Y.M.C.A. work in the area and for the supervision of the Y.M.C.A. staff.

The person appointed will have relevant experience and the ability to work on his/her own initiative in an imaginative and creative way. The person appointed will be responsible for the development of Y.M.C.A. work in the area and for the supervision of the Y.M.C.A. staff.

Further details and application forms can be obtained from: J. D. Firkin, The Director, Swansea Housing Association, 63 Mansel Street, Swansea SA1 5TN.

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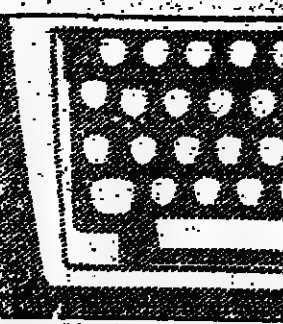
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Research

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Division This is a key
Research Section in
the Social Services
policy formulation
development of themanagement of the
operation programme
the planning cycle
d monitoring serviceexperience and
computer literacy
must be essential
Chandler Assistant
31, extension 4312
the Director of Social
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Say it's old. Thus Mr
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but I really loathe...
That's the whole idea
that when employment is good
for you and good for the
country gives me a very bad
feeling. If not Mr Bell."

Alan Rusbridger

ents appear on
123

DIARY

MR LEON Brittan inter-
vened personally to prevent
a couple of striking miners
and Mr Eldon Griffiths from
entering the Home Office
building to address a meet-
ing of civil servants
yesterday.

The prohibition follows a
meeting at the Home Office
last November when a Kent
miner addressed an "in-
formation meeting" attended
by about 60 members of the
civil servants' union the
SCPS. Mr Eldon Griffiths
got to hear of it and protested
to Mr Brittan about the
meeting. The SCPS re-
sponded by organising an-
other meeting and inviting
two Northumbrian miners
and Mr Griffiths to address
it. Mr O. Griffiths, but not
before Mr Brittan had warned
them their meeting would be
banned if any outsider
turned up.

In the end the meeting
went ahead with a collection
of about £60 for the miners,
who waited in the pub across
the road. The talk on the
miners' dispute was replaced
by a lively discussion on the
curtailment of civil servants'
civil liberties.

BRITAIN to Giebe Branch of
Ealing Southall Labour
Party. Membership has shot
up recently: 105 members a
year ago and now 850
members. The AGM earlier
this month was attended by
an astonishing 470 members.
A credit to all concerned!
Footnote: The Labour MP for
Ealing Southall is Mr Sid
Biddell. The question of
re-electing Mr Biddell was
discussed at the AGM. His
constituency Labour
party.

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Some men may go back, but the Women's Support Group at Hatfield Main (pictured this week at Dunscoff near Doncaster), goes marching on. Picture by Don McPhee

MALCOLM PITHERS reports from the Yorkshire coalfield on the Coal Board's techniques of persuasion

Getting the miners to go back together

THE YORKSHIRE coalfield
— still a true barometer of
the miners' strike — is
about to undergo the stiffest
test yet of its traditional
gritiness to see matters
through to the bitter end.
Today a group of working
miners in the coalfield are
going to reveal their plans
for the future and exactly
how they intend to challenge
the NUM. But precisely what
support the men have, who
are meeting in Normanton
near Wakefield, remains to
be seen.

The NCB is also on the
verge of announcing coal
production at a sixth York-
shire colliery in the hope
that further publicity will
attract even more men to
return in the coalfield and
help break the strike. Yester-
day's NCB figures showed
that 175 men went back in
Yorkshire, taking their total
to 4,875.

But if one looks beneath
the highly-publicised return
to work, all is not as it
appears. To begin with, miners
in Yorkshire mostly agree
they cannot wait to return to
work. After 11 months on
strike, with a greatly-reduced
standard of living and debts
higher than coal stocks, that
is self-evident. Therefore,
men might be expected to be
persuaded to return.

Our Man in Port Stanley

IT IS typical of the tough,
quiet-spoken administrator
who has been designated as
the new Commissioner in the
Falkland Islands, succeeding
Sir Rex Hunt, that no photo-
graph of him could be found
when they ransacked the
files in Whitehall yesterday.

Gordon Wesley Jewkes is,
at 53, a senior member of
the Diplomatic Service with
a reputation for taking nuts
and cracking them. He is an
outdoorsman who grew up in
a small town in County Dur-
ham and never lost his rural
roots. He lists hiking and

boating among his interests,
and is said by friends to be
happiest when off duty,
striking the coasts or scaling
the fells in boots and anor-
ak. His wife, Joyce, a Lon-
doner, has come to share
these interests, as have their
two sons.

In other words, he seems
well equipped to take on his
next and largest task since
joining the foreign service
17 years ago, taking over as
Her Majesty's Civil Commis-
sioner for the Falkland Is-
lands next September. He
will find there another out-
doorsman as his running
mate, Major-General P. E. de
la Bilière, the Military Com-

missioner, who has some
4,000 British servicemen
under his command.
Gordon Jewkes will have
fewer people in his care —
the civilian population is
now just over 1,800, having
grown by about 4 per cent
by immigration since the
restoration of British admin-
istration two years ago. But
the scope of his duties is
wider and more complex
than that of the military
commander — he has
responsibility for a territory
as large as Wales, and the
daunting task of putting a
massive economic modernisa-
tion programme into high
gear.

One miner I spoke to yes-
terday had just returned
from his building society
anxious about the enormous
back payments on his mort-
gage. He said: "They have
very thankfully agreed to
help me even more. I can't
have any more debts and I'm
out of cash, so I suppose I'm
broken. I always wanted to
be a miner, ever since I
used to ride up and down
lifts in Lewis. Sounds daft,
but it's true. I never wanted
to do anything else, and I'm
not going back until our fu-
ture is settled."

The men are suspicious of
the daily figures issued by
the NCB. They say no men-
tion is made of how many
men rejoin the strike or ex-
actly how many are being
persuaded to return by the
NCB. This indeed is a grey
area.

The NCB has maintained
throughout the dispute that
men go back only of their
own free will. That, of
course, is true. But the NCB
has an interest in making
sure that men who do want
to go back to a pit, no mat-
ter for how long, should go
back together. The board
flatly denied yesterday this
was done for propaganda
reasons.

Miners at the Allerton
Bywater colliery, near

Castleford, have just
received a letter signed by
Mr Ron Cocker, the pit man-
ager, which does go some
way to persuading men to
return in the clear belief
that hundreds more want to
do likewise.

The letter is dated Janu-
ary 15 and says that during
the past few days the pit
manager had approximately
300 inquiries from people
about starting work. He says
in his letter: "About 50 per
cent of these did not give
their names and addresses and
most are waiting for one an-
other to make the first
move. As you can see, more
and more miners are return-
ing to work each day to take
advantage of the tax-free
earnings and holiday pay you
will receive before the new
tax year at the end of
March."

The letter goes on to say
that provisional transport ar-
rangements have been made
for next Monday, January 28,
and asks men to either tele-
phone the manager person-
ally or the personnel man-
ager before this weekend.

The manager also says:
"If all the men who have
spoken to me about return-
ing to work come on Mon-
day, the strike at Allerton
Bywater will be over and

men returning against the
54,000 miners normally work-
ing in the coalfield.

One miner, aged 54, said
at Allerton: "I think they
are just kidding men. They'll
say there are two or three
hundred men going back so
that some men will join the
queue on that day. I don't
think that is exactly letting
people make up their own
minds."

Another miner, aged 48,
who joined the industry at
15, said he was saddened by
the strike, but felt that the
Government would not allow
any talks to end the dispute
until many more men had
returned.

Whatever the truth of the
figures, there is little doubt
that some miners are dissat-
isfied both with the length
of the strike, if not its pur-
pose, and with the union
leadership.

Mr Tony Ellis, deputy
president of the National
Working Miners' group, said
that as far as they were con-
cerned, there was no break-
away union. But if Notting-
hamshire miners were
expelled a lot of men, even
in Yorkshire, would leave
the NUM and join them. He
said: "There is no closed
shop, as you know. So if this
threat is carried out to expel

Nottinghamshire, some of us
will go the same way. It's as
simple as that."

Just how many men will
support that view in York-
shire remains to be seen. To
the pickets yesterday the
most pressing problem was
how to keep wooden shelters
standing in high winds, and
how to keep warm in foul
weather.

Mr Fred Brechley, the
Fairfax general manager who
has spent nearly three weeks
in Britain organising this
deal and links with the City,
strongly disapproved of the
idea of buying the Observer
paper, as suggested by the
Times, another paper owned
by an Australian.

Lombro, the owners of the
Observer, also insist that the
Observer is not for sale, and
that its performance is sat-
isfying. But Fairfax is
tipped as an eager suitor for
the Daily and Sunday Tele-
graph, owned by Lord
Hartwell's family, should the
titles ever come up for sale.
Planet Holdings, publishers of
Express newspapers, is also
possible, though less likely
target.

Mr Charles Moore, the editor
of the Spectator, said
yesterday that jobs of the 14
Spectator staff had been
guaranteed by Fairfax. He
has also been assured that
there is no plan, or wish, to
change the magazine's edito-
rial policy, a dedication to
fine writing, quirky opinions,
and right-of-centre political
views.

Mr Moore said: "I wel-
come the deal. The Spec-
tor has a decidedly up-market,
well-heeled readership, and
is thought to have much
under-developed potential. It
has pushed up its circulation
from 120,000 in 1975, the low
when the former
Alexander Chancellor, took
over, to the current level of
21,000, but is still making
losses. It is about to launch
a drive on subscription sales
to the US, and hopes to fol-
low with one in Australia.

extra batteries are ideal for
the roads — and a couple of
Otter aircraft with floats and
wheels to taxi him around
his huge and watery parish.
He has to combine the
qualities of town adminis-
trator with a genuine affini-
ty for the outdoors. If, like
Gordon Jewkes, he can take
nature in the raw and talk
as easily with sheep farmers
as with townsmen, then he
has that rare combination
needed for the Stanley post.
If, to boot, he has done a
couple of years National Ser-
vice (as an Ordnance Corps
officer) and can talk the mil-
itary lingo, that too is an
asset.

camp for their political be-
liefs.
The West German right,
which included many former
Nazis, has remained silent.
The leader of the Christian
Social Union, Franz-Josef
Strauss, has yet to state his
position.

If there is circumspection
in the GDR, it is not ex-
pressed at the official level.
A crowd of 30,000 last week
attended a peace demonstra-
tion in the engineering city
of Magdeburg, held to mark
the 40th anniversary and its
bombing — the end of its war.

Dresden has elaborate
plans for similar demonstra-
tions next month. Doubts in
East Germany are voiced by
the Church, by the small but
unstoppable unofficial peace
movement, and through the
acknowledged political apathy
of many of the country's
young people. Karlshorst's
museum to the defeat of Nazism
is run by German-speaking
Russians, not Germans.

In 1945, the engineering
school (castle) at Karlshorst
was made the Soviet head-
quarters. It remained the
centre of Soviet civil and
military control until 1963. It
became a museum in 1967,
and there are 15,000 exhibits,
starting with the replica of a
three-tonne statue of Lenin,
wrested from the Nazis who
wanted to melt it down for
ammunition. In the same
room is a picture of the Red
Army's first leaders.

Primarily, the museum is
devoted to the Soviet ad-
vance on Berlin. There
seems to be only one picture
of Stalin — at Yalta, and
unnamed — and he gets one
mention, for ordering a 24-
gun salute when the Russians
met the Americans at
Torgau. But Marshal Zhukov,
whose father was one of
Hitler's governmental
advisers.

But Kohl, who was 15
when the war ended, is now
meeting resistance from his
own right wing, from the
Church (which resents tak-
ing orders from the body



The East Berlin paper announces celebrations for May, and (right) the bomb building where the surrender was signed

Michael Simmons reports from a divided city

The place where the postwar era began

until the evening of the 9th.
The self-assurance in such
a headline is obvious, and is
underlined by the adjoining
report from Düsseldorf on
the same page to the effect
that the West Germans are
uncertain whether to record
1945 as a victory or a defeat.
But it remains to be seen, in
the GDR as well as the Fed-
eral Republic, whether self-
assurance from the Party
Central Committee or the
CDU chancellery will be
enough to get millions of be-

reaved Germans to put out
more festive flags from their
own windows.
Professor Helmut
Thielicke, now 76, was active
in the pulp throughout the
Third Reich and later be-
came rector of the universi-
ties of Tübingen and Ham-
burg. He probably echoed the
thoughts of many in the
silent majority in both Ger-
manys when he said the
other day that defeat of the
Nazis was also a defeat for
the Fatherland.

"When we saw the mas-
sive fireworks display of the
joyous victors that evening,"
he wrote in a West German
newspaper, "we were not
celebrating. We remained
cowed in our corners, de-
pressed in our darkness...
None of the GDR's self-assur-
ance there."
Chancellor Kohl has pon-
dered along similar lines —
"Many were in prison when
the end came," he said
recently, "mothers lost their
sons, women their husbands,

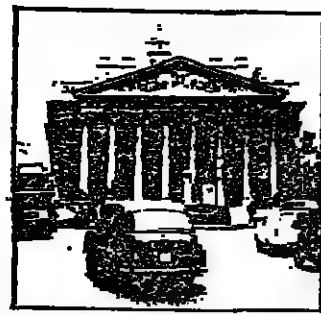


and millions lost their
homes" — but he has ap-
proved the notion of an ec-
umenical service in Cologne
cathedral and a solemn
address to the Bundestag by
President von Weizsäcker
(whose father was one of
Hitler's governmental
advisers).

But Kohl, who was 15
when the war ended, is now
meeting resistance from his
own right wing, from the
Church (which resents tak-
ing orders from the body

politic) and from the opposi-
tion parties.
The SPD leader, Willy
Brandt, who must be unique
for the way he has publicly
acknowledged damage in-
flicted by both the Nazis
(kneeling at the Warsaw
ghetto shrine) and the Com-
munists (resigning as Chan-
cellor), has meanwhile
warned against going too far
in the remembrance cere-
monies. He knows, after all,
that thousands of SDP mem-
bers died in concentration

It's clearly difficult to balance the books and buy off trouble at the same time



NOTEBOOK

Edited by
Hamish McRae

THERE ARE two different ways of looking at the government spending plans outlined yesterday, the accountants and the politicians: the accountants' first.

As far as the big spending numbers are concerned, the government would merit

some praise for sticking to its stated plans. Far better to do that than say you will spend on every pet project and then conduct a U-turn a couple of years later a la Mitterrand. But though the plans don't change, the outlays do. Each year on average a billion is spent over and above what is planned, and the gap is bridged by a mixture of larger asset sales, larger borrowing, and higher-than-expected tax revenues.

This year will be no exception. Since the cost of the miners' strike post-Christmas has not been allowed for, we are clearly talking about an overshoot of over £200 million, and the billion is probably nearer the mark. At least they are consistent in the amount they overshoot.

But this obviously gives a make-believe element to next year's figures, which are clearly based on a series of shaky assumptions. Anyone can list them: the overrun of miners' strike costs, the inevitably unreal public sector pay assumption, and so on.

In fact, allowing for what has happened this year there will have to be a fall in public spending in real terms next year. It is difficult to see that happening.

Against this scepticism of course is the point that there is a substantial contingency reserve built into the figures. But on form it will not be big enough.

The other point the accountants' eye would notice is the way in which the government is finding that what might be called contractual spending is seen to be rising (like unemployment pay) while discretionary spending (say, on industry) is squeezed. It is a bit like a family which has over-housed itself and has to cut down on food and holidays.

The politician might quibble here. What you can see here is a balancing of interest groups, and in a way quite clever trimming to suit political realities. You cannot cut social security because there are too many votes at stake, but you can chop industry because that does not

seem to cause the same political fallout. Tell the nationalised industries to make more profit by putting up their prices and the opposition rebounds on the gas board and not on HMG.

Whether this is really a sensible allocation of national resources is, of course, quite another matter.

All in all, though, the pattern is one of relentless upward pressure on spending totals, cut back only by cutting the hits which frequently it would be more sensible not to cut. You do not need to be a card-carrying member of an interest group to believe that. Faced with this pressure, voters pressure to get tax rates down, and an effective ceiling on borrowing, the government needs some lucky breaks if it is to achieve its objectives.

Too much

It would be silly to make too much of the concerted

intervention yesterday on the exchanges, by Germany, Austria and it seems ourselves, though it is jolly that the authorities should be doing this so soon after they had their spokesmen swear blind that they would not.

That is perhaps a little unfair, for there was no question of intervening to protect a particular rate. But the point was made yesterday that a relatively small amount of central bank activity on the exchanges can create quite unsettled circumstances. The more unsettled the central banks can make the markets, the less chance there is of concerted speculation against currencies.

In one sense the whole policy of the Bank of England to intervene to smooth out fluctuations, is 180 degrees wrong. If it were intent on stirring up trouble, trying simply to inflict pain on the banks and generally make a nuisance of itself, then maybe it would frighten the speculators off. But per-

haps irresponsibility is too much to ask of a central bank.

Hunting a head

LATEST update on the brave new City — or rather its brave new securities market — might seem extraordinary but the lunch table has clearly failed, and so the headhunters have been wheeled in.

It is quite clear that the informal system of trying to find someone to head its new self-regulatory body to control the securities market has failed — the best names can only have said no. And so a firm of consultants has been planning round now for several weeks. There is a short-list. But there is also clearly a hiccup.

It would be nice to have the name to coincide with the government's white paper on the subject, to be presented by Mr Tebbit in about two weeks. But in fact there is no need for that, for

the paper is essentially setting out what the City has to do to meet the government's standards.

The white paper will recognise that the great debate over the advantages of one or two tiers of exchange (the securities and insurance industries) has largely been one of hot air.

The magnum opus is not likely to set out any particular number but will leave the actual workings of whether one or two are most appropriate entirely up to the City. By now the City has largely accepted that even if two get off the ground it is only a matter of time before they amalgamate.

Butch beer

REAL ale buffs will be agast but the trend towards lighter beers shows no sign of diminishing.

Following the marketing hype surrounding Watney's introduction of Budweiser into the South East of Eng-

land another of the brewing giants, Allied, is keeping the American bandwagon on the roll.

Its specialist import company has been appointed agent for the Schlitz brand to England and Wales. Sales begin in the next few weeks.

The arrival of the two leading US beers marks a continuation of a boom that has seen "lager" type beers carve out a near 40 per cent share of the UK beer market.

Signs are that that growth has further to go yet. Those connected with the Budweiser launch point out that a new generation of drinker has grown up since lager started to gain a market hold 15 years ago.

If their claim that some 25 per cent of lager drinkers have now been converted to it is wholly conceivable that what was once regarded as an "effete" product may yet account for half of all the pints drunk in Britain. CAMRA, where are you now?

Low inflation and 6.8pc growth to boost American currency

Stronger dollar predicted

From Alex Brummer
in Washington

The Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige said yesterday that the combination of a stronger than expected US economy and low inflation indicates greater strength for the dollar on the foreign exchanges.

His contentious comments came as his department reported that President Reagan's second term had got off to a flying start. Its revised figures for the fourth quarter growth showed a gain of 3.9 per cent against the preliminary projection of 2.9 per cent. This meant that 1984, with its 6.8 per cent growth rate, was the best year for the American economy since 1955.

Mr Baldrige's suggestion that the better than expected performance of the US economy might continue to strengthen the dollar comes only days after the five industrial countries sought to dampen enthusiasm for the US currency by warning the markets that central banks stood

ready to intervene to stem the dollar's rise.

"We don't want to try and talk down the dollar," Mr Baldrige said. His comments appeared to be at variance with the departing US Treasury Secretary Mr Donald Regan, who is said by monetary officials to believe that the dollar may have become overvalued.

Mr Baldrige predicted that lower interest rates would keep the US economy growing in the first quarter of this year when it would show annual growth in the order of 4 per cent. Many analysts believe however that unless President Reagan and Congress take decisive action to trim the huge budget deficits then interest rates will move up again and the economy will slow sharply later this year.

The financial markets, which greeted yesterday's growth news enthusiastically, were also buoyed by the inflation figures for 1984. The measure of inflation which economists use to calculate real growth fell to 3.7 per

cent, the best level since 1967.

The Federal Reserve chairman, Mr Paul Volcker, has argued that lower inflation levels mean that further cuts in American interest rates would be justified.

President Reagan was clearly

so buoyed by the latest economic figures that he all but blurted them out as he traipsed around Washington's inaugural balls on Monday night after his swearing in at the Rotunda. The President quickly appeared to have shied to one side the huge \$40 billion budget deficit, which he had seen as such a serious problem in his inaugural speech.

The main reason behind the revised figures for the fourth quarter was an upsurge of consumer demand which offset a drying up of industrial purchases for stockpiling. But it is still possible that the figures could be revised downwards should December's trade deficit — still to be calculated — is particularly severe.

The 3.9 per cent growth level recorded in the final three months of 1984 followed a weak 1.6 per cent growth rate in the third quarter and the robust figures of 10.1 per cent and 7.1 per cent recorded in the first two quarters respectively.

Malcolm Baldrige

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President Reagan was clearly

Pollution code for farmers

By Rosemary Collins,
Agriculture Correspondent

Farmers will face a new range of fines and a maximum of two years' imprisonment if they ignore a new Code of Good Agricultural Practice, published yesterday, and allow chemicals, manure or silage/effluent from their land to pollute waterways.

It has been an offence for farmers to "knowingly permit" polluting substances to enter water, including underground water, since the Control of Pollution Act 1974 was passed. This act provided that no offence was committed if the pollution was caused through an accident in accordance with good agricultural practice.

The new code lays down what good agricultural practice is. It will be backed up by a leaflet to be circulated to farmers.

Points to remember, it tells farmers, are not to use more chemicals than necessary, to store supplies away from drains and streams, to apply nitrogen fertiliser only when crops are growing, and to take extra precautions with silage, which is now the subject of a new code of practice for the conservation of animal forage in Britain.

Pesticide containers should not be rinsed out in streams or rivers, and some should never be rinsed out at all. The rinsing water should be put in the sprayer and applied to land as part of the spraying operation, never poured down public sewers or drains or allowed to soak into the soil near waterways.

Similar care must be taken when tipping out used sheep dips and other chemical waste.

LWT in votes-for-all move

By Geoffrey Gibbs

The London Weekend Television company, LWT Holdings, has called a special meeting of shareholders early next month to vote on firm proposals to give votes to all its shares.

The meeting at the company's South Bank headquarters on February 5 comes exactly a year after the LWT directors first signalled their intention to create a single class of voting equity by enfranchising the widely-held non-voting "A" shares.

At present LWT has just 60,000 voting shares in issue, tightly held by a mere 60 shareholders. There are almost 18 million quoted but non-voting shares.

Voluntary wind-up for BP's Selstrust

By Geoffrey Gibbs

British Petroleum's debt-laden Australian offshoot Selstrust Holdings is heading into voluntary liquidation following the rejection of a proposed reconstruction by the company's minority shareholders.

Selstrust came into the BP camp in 1980 as a result of BP's controversial \$430 million acquisition of the UK based minerals group Selection Trust. It employs several hundred people, mainly in Western Australia where it has investments in the Agnew nickel mine, the Mt Newman iron ore deposit and in various gold exploration interests.

At a meeting in Perth yesterday the company failed to secure the necessary support from shareholders for a Scheme of Arrangement de-

signed to overcome its deteriorating financial position.

Selstrust's debts have risen to more than \$114 million (\$35 million) and BP, which is owed around \$58 million by its 75 per cent owned subsidiary, says it is not prepared to lend any further money under the present conditions. It has told the Selstrust board that it will immediately call in its loans unless a voluntary liquidation is recommended.

Faced with the failure of the proposed Scheme of Arrangement, the Selstrust directors yesterday decided to opt for voluntary liquidation of the business as this would allow the operating company to be sold as a going concern rather than the sale of its individual assets.

They will be recommending shareholders to vote in favour of the move at a further meeting at the end of next month.

Under the enfranchisement proposal the company's voting shareholders will be compensated for the loss of their privileged position by the issue of five new shares for each voting share they currently own.

Mr Christopher Bland, the LWT chairman, is confident that the proposals now have the necessary support of both classes of shareholders to bring the votes-for-all scheme to fruition. In order to be approved the enfranchisement plan requires a 75 per cent majority of both voting and non-voting shares at the February meeting.

"We think that the majority of shareholders are now in favour," Mr Bland said yesterday. "People have finished negotiating and a majority of both classes are prepared to support it. That is our view; it can only be tested when we count the votes but we are pretty confident that the proposals will be approved."

The South-west ITV contractor, TSW, demonstrated that the ITV companies could operate a votes-for-all share structure when it went public in 1982. Like the TSW scheme, the LWT proposals have been able to satisfy the IBA's requirement that a television contractor should not fall into the "wrong hands" by restricting the percentage of shares that can be acquired by a single holder.

Water challenge

By Michael Smith

Thames Water Authority chairman Roy Watts is challenging Environment Secretary, Patrick Jenkin to seek Parliamentary approval for controversial proposals to raise domestic water charges in the London area by 10 per cent in the next few weeks.

Thames, the country's largest water board, is opposing government financial plans which would mean raising charges by 10 per cent on April 1. Thames wants to raise prices by only 3 per cent and says the government's proposals are "unacceptable and based on principle and practice that are open to fundamental challenge."

Mr Watts said yesterday that leading counsel had advised Thames that the government's proposals were tantamount to a "take it or leave it" ultimatum on water and that there might be joint ventures between the two companies.

Venture fund for Wales

By Paul Moyland

The Anglican church in Wales, which has played a prominent role in moves by church leaders to end the miners' strike, has invested £200,000 in a multi-million pound scheme to create new jobs in the principality.

The representative body of the church has become increasingly involved with social issues as unemployment in Wales has risen to more than 16 per cent, and yesterday it joined local authorities and City institutions in launching the Welsh Venture Capital Fund.

We naturally wish to make Wales more prosperous and we feel that the new fund will help create more jobs," said Mr David Evans, the accountant to the representative body. "It is a sound investment that will show long-term capital growth as firms expand."

The fund has raised £5.6 million, with the Welsh Development Agency investing £1.5 million for every £4 committed by private investors. The county councils of South, West and Mid-Glamorgan, Gwent, Powys, Dyfed and Clwyd have used part of their pension funds to provide half the money raised.

The fund will invest in unquoted companies ranging from new businesses to established enterprises. The Secretary for Wales, Mr Nicholas Edwards, said the fund was well placed to broaden the high technology base in the principality "to the mutual advantage of investors and the Welsh economy as a whole."

Investment proposals will be enhanced by the Welsh Development Agency's ability to offer custom-built factories, rent-free periods, grants and subsidised loans. The Agency's chief executive, Mr David Waterstone, said: "We are determined to provide Wales with all the finan-

cial weapons necessary to win the battle both to expand and modernise its industrial base, with priority for existing Welsh-based enterprises."

The fund has a 10-year life expectancy, which could be extended depending on its success.

Mr Clive Richards, a City of London entrepreneur who is chairman of the new company, Welsh Development Capital, set up to manage the fund's portfolio, said: "Wales has a growing industrial and commercial community, with the resources and infrastructure for further expansion and this has revealed an increasing need for venture capital."

"We set out to raise a minimum of £2.5 million and hoped to double this amount. The fact that we have exceeded even that higher target gives me still more confidence that Welsh Venture Capital will succeed as an investment fund."

John Rihl

It claimed was backed by more than half Stylo's shareholders, was thrown out by the board which controls the company through a handful of management shares.

British Land has shunned a full bid in favour of a tender offer through merchant bank Morgan Grenfell as part of a strategy which is likely to rekindle City opposition to non-voting shares.

British Land is offering to buy a maximum of nine million Stylo shares at up to 185p a share. If successful, the company, which already owns 7.5 per cent of Stylo, will increase its holding to just over 50 per cent, but because of Stylo's two-tier share structure will control only 23.5 per cent of the voting rights.

British Land says that if the response to its tender is encouraging it might launch a full bid valuing Stylo at around £33 million. It is more likely, however, that the group will use its stake as a lever to press for a franchisement of non-voting shares.

Mr Rihl said that on the basis on which British Land had shunned the tender offer (which needs acceptance for at least eight million shares in order to succeed) he could afford to sit on the enlarged shareholding and wait for the share structure to change. In the meantime he hoped that there might be joint ventures between the two companies.

Acorn joins computer price war with £70 cut

By Peter Large and
Maggie Brown

Acorn, of Cambridge, yesterday joined in the home computer price war.

It took £70 off the price of its Electron model to match the £129 of Sinclair's Spectrum Plus, but it did not touch the pricing of its earlier BBC Micro, which has won the bulk of the British educational market. Instead, it introduced a £50 trade-in offer, under which any breed of computer can be handed in to buy a BBC Micro at £50 discount.

Announcing these changes, Chris Curry and Herman Hauser, joint founders and bosses of Acorn, said their Christmas sales were 100,000 of the BBC model and 100,000 of the Electron, double the volume of Christmas 1983. Total sales in 1984 were 420,000 more than double the 1983 total.

These afternoon announcements led to a limited recovery in Acorn's share price after opening at a new low of 43p, it climbed back to 51p, then fell back to 49p. At this level Acorn is valued at

£55 million, compared with £218 million a year ago.

Mr Hauser confirmed that Acorn would be exploring ways of raising new capital during 1985. He said Acorn would need to shift "only a small proportion" of its stock to benefit from a strong inflow of cash flow. Acorn could raise cash by issuing new shares, which would include cash stocks of £18 million.

The company is clearly planning to produce a new BBC Micro this year or early next, following on its new range of business computers. It is also aiming to double exports from last year's 10 per cent of output. There is current strong points are India and Australia. Mr Curry said that the initial failure in the US did not mean that Acorn would abandon that market.

He estimated Acorn's share of the UK home computer market at 25 per cent. He said a third of production went into the home, a third into education, and a third into business, industry, and science, doing work ranging from qual-

ity control of iron foundries to satellite tracking.

Mr Curry announced a new programme for school sales, involving a "suppliers' forum", where educationalists can present their needs and a number of attractive price packages, which he would not detail.

An attempt to promote Acorn hardware backed on Lion House Retail, which advertises that it is "the largest Acorn centre in Europe," according to the Advertising Standards Authority.

In a special promotion, the shop offered last summer a free Acorn data recorder with five cassettes to every buyer of a BBC Micro computer. But stocks of the data recorder ran out, and customers complained that they were given a different model.

The ASA yesterday upheld one complaint against the firm, pointing out that stocks should have been maintained at a level to meet the demand likely to be generated by advertisements.

Chipping away at Acorn. Page 21.

Edwardes urges rejection of BTR

By Margaret Pagnon

The 60,000 shareholders in Dunlop Holdings were urged yesterday to ignore BTR's £33 million bid and stick with the reconstruction package unveiled last week.

Sir Michael Edwardes, Dunlop's chairman, said he would soon explain more fully to shareholders why BTR's comparisons over the share prices are misleading. He added that although BTR was offering 20p for the Dunlop share, compared with the 14p price in the rescue package — BTR's offer did not take account of the right to acquire new shares under the reconstruction plan. Shares in Dunlop slipped 2p to 34p.

Shareholders are being asked to return proxy forms supporting the resolutions for the rescue package as soon as possible before the extraordinary general meeting on February 8. BTR, with its 28 per cent of preference shares, can block the proposals.

After an hour-long meeting between Sir Michael and Professor Robert Fritchard, leading the Dunlop shareholders' pressure group, the board has agreed to look at ways to improve the lot of small shareholders who have criticised the rescue package for not giving them a large enough stake.

Professor Fritchard, who has pledged support for the board against BTR's bid, said: "We now see eye-to-eye on all issues of substance and the board will use its endeavours to ensure shareholders who stay on with Dunlop do not dilute their stake." The board is due to report back in two days.

Work on BTR's offer document from BTR has started and talks continue between BTR and the 53 banks backing the reconstruction deal.

Accountants barred from holding office

Two accountants who unlawfully acted as voluntary liquidators and misappropriated assets of companies they were supposed to protect, were barred in the High Court in London yesterday from holding company office for 12 years.

Mr Justice Harman said the accountants, Mr Maurice Caplan, 63, and Mr Stephen Pepler, 41, had been engaged in a "welter of misconduct."

The judge disqualified them from holding office as company director, liquidator and receiver and manager.

The judge also ordered the compulsory liquidation of their company, Chancery Lane Registrars, which had offices in Devonshire Row, Bishopsgate, London, and Sheffield. Mr Caplan, of Wisborough Cottage, Wisborough Green, near Billingshurst, West Sussex, and

Mr Pepler, of Randolph Avenue, Maid Vale, West London, were the sole directors and shareholders of the company.

The judge said the liquidations carried on by Chancery Registrars had been a "wholly improper course of conduct." It was in breach of the Companies Act, which laid down that companies could not act as liquidators.

Money received by Chancery Registrars was misappropriated by the company for the private use of Mr Caplan and Mr Pepler, who were "mixed up together" and not used for the benefit of creditors and shareholders. Some £52,000 was appropriated by the company for itself and thereby the creditors were "swindled."

Neither of them defended the proceedings.

Booker bid set to lapse

By Mary Brasier

The £232 million bid for Booker McConnell by Dee Corporation is set to lapse when the Monopolies Commission publishes the findings of its six-month investigation into the merger, later today.

Dee chairman Mr Alec Monk is expected to be allowed to renew his bid only if he agrees to dispose of Booker's cash and carry business which he had hoped to merge with Dee's own interests in order to improve flagging profits.

Dee has said that although it would like to buy the cash and carry business with sales of £400 million, its main aim in bidding for Booker is to develop the group's other inter-

ests in US agriculture and health products.

However, although prepared in principle to accept a qualified verdict from the MMC, Mr Monk will stick by his statement to shareholders last year that the merger was an international chain that he would not immediately renew his attack on Booker whose share price has risen steadily since the original bid last May.

Booker unveils its next set of profits in March and promised that "it is going to be difficult and expensive company to buy." The company has further acquisitions lined up in agriculture and health products to take it out of Dee's reach.

Booker's share price fell by 7p last night to 245p while Dee's gained 9p to 208p.

Go-ahead for Humble Grove oil

By John Hooper,
Energy Correspondent

The government yesterday gave the go-ahead for oil to be produced from Britain's second-largest offshore field at Humble Grove, near Afton in Hampshire. Carless, Capel and Leonard operates the field and has the biggest share in the consortium which owns it.

Humble Grove is reckoned to contain recoverable reserves of between 9.1 and 12.5 million barrels and between 15 and 23 billion cubic feet of gas.

Carless expects to be producing 2,500 barrels a day by the beginning of next year. The initial cost of development is thought to be in the region of £30 million.

The other members of the consortium are Cambrian, Hudson Oil UK, Onshore, Mariner, Petroleum, Charterhouse, Mitre, and Sulpetro (UK). In conjunction with Carless, they have succeeded in breaking BP's monopoly of onshore development. The British major runs all of the remaining 11 fields on the English mainland. Nine are in the East Midlands and have been producing small quantities for many years now. The others are at Welton in Lincolnshire and at Wytch Farm in Dorset, where two new fields have been found, meaning it is the biggest onshore field.

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FINANCIAL GUARDIAN

The debt thickens in Brazil's soap opera

Bernardo Kucinski on the drama being played out as the presidency changes hands



Tancredino Neves (left) prepares changes as Figueiredo bows out

Brazil is now under the dual authority of the outgoing president, General Figueiredo, and the newly elected one, Mr. Tancredino Neves. The result is that the country's \$100 billion foreign debt drama is now being played as a triangular soap opera.

Mr. Afonso Celso Pastore, outgoing administration's central bank governor, is desperately trying to seduce bankers into signing a rescheduling agreement which would stand as proof of the team's sense of duty towards the nation.

The new president, who takes over on March 15, might use the bankers' allowances to Pastore as merely a starting point for further negotiations.

Last weekend the creditor banks' advisory committee got fed up with this triangular game and broke off the negotiations with Mr. Pastore after an agreement had already been reached on the crucial issue of spreads.

These are extra interest rates charged by bankers on top of the basic floating rate, which they claim to be their only real profit margin.

The bankers had agreed to reduce the spread on a substantial part of the foreign debt due during the next five years from just under 2 per cent to 1.5 per cent, and to reschedule the principal over a long period. Furthermore, only part of the spread (0.575 per cent) would be effectively paid as interest. The remaining part (0.425 per cent) would be credited back into the principal, so it was a new loan.

This spread has to be compared with the 2 per cent plus a 0.5 per cent flat fee that Brazil was charged on its first foreign debt rescheduling, and with the 1.25 per cent Mexico was charged only a couple of months ago.

Mr. Pastore was apparently aiming for a spread at the Mexican level, he got very near to it, and the scheme by which the 1.5 per cent spread was split by lending back part of the interest would have enabled him to boast an unprecedented victory. Bankers broke off after some of Mr. Tancredino's followers threatened to disown Mr. Pastore's agreement.

Mr. Tancredino Neves was elected by the major opposition party, the Brazilian Democratic Movement (PMDB), and a ruling party faction with a clear mandate to change Brazil's priorities.

He is an experienced and moderate politician. He believes Brazil has something to learn from Argentina's President Alfonsín's aborted attempt to break off from the IMF. Rather than take the risk of being forced to retreat later, Mr. Tancredino prefers to harden his stance gradually and leave the IMF and bankers with the responsibility for any rupture. But the chances of success of his tactics will depend largely on factors beyond Brazil's control.

Last year, by stimulating exports at all cost, Brazil got an extraordinary \$15 billion trade surplus — the exact size of the debt interest payments, and the equivalent of 40 per cent of the country's total exports. All this money was saved by the bankers' interest, an enormous net transfer of wealth

that would destroy any economy after a few years.

Many of Mr. Tancredino's aides believe that only by holding back part of this money and using it to import materials and capital goods, could Brazil achieve self-sustained growth with the creation of jobs. But this would mean the suspension of part of the debt interest payments, leading to a clash with the banks. The size of the clash has already been estimated by Mr. Tancredino's team.

Brazil's 50 million workforce grows by 2.8 per cent a year. This means that 1.4 million new jobs must be created every year just to drop the unemployment time bomb, already over the 10 million mark. Each 1 per cent GDP growth in Brazil leads to 0.4 per cent growth in employment and 0.8 per cent growth in the imports bill. Brazil's GDP must grow by at least 7 per cent a year (it is not a coincidence that this is the country's historical average), with a subsequent 5.6 per cent increase in imports. The \$15 billion trade surplus would in fact have to grow by over 10 per cent (over \$15 billion), to accommodate in addition the 4 per cent annual dollar inflation. An additional \$1.5 billion might be necessary for emergency food imports, to reduce hunger, and push down food prices.

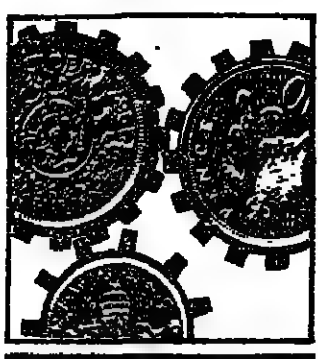
The spread reduction already obtained by Mr. Pastore might reduce the debt servicing by just over half a billion dollars a year. Another \$1 billion might be saved by the previous year's bill, by the recent fall in dollar interest rates. It would not be difficult for Mr. Tancredino to get another billion or two by other means. But what if interest rates float up again? Or if oil prices go up? And what if the American economy slows down or the US government imposes an across-the-board tariff barrier on manufactured goods?

Some of Mr. Tancredino's advisers prefer him to play safe to avoid dependence on so many factors beyond his control. They would like him to establish a limit on interest payments, as a fixed proportion of the trade surplus, perhaps 60 per cent, and to demand from bankers the capitalisation of the remaining part. They also think that Brazil should ask for a "near-to-zero" interest rate spread. They claim that the time has come now for bankers to make some sacrifices, after profiting so much from Brazil's difficulties.

The new president is closely following Mr. Pastore's talks, using as his channel of information the head of the income tax authority, Mr. Francisco Dornelles, who is close to Mr. Pastore and happens to be Mr. Tancredino's nephew. The president apparently prefers to reach an agreement, but he would not commit himself, either publicly or privately.

This way he will be free. If the agreement is a good one, he will be in a position to start his term in office with one less problem. If it is a bad one, or no development at all, he can always denounce "the agreement made by the previous government" and demand a renegotiation. This is the

Taking a cut in wages does not help the poor



Nick Bosanquet looks at the role of real wages in a divided labour market

ECONOMICS AGENDA

THE New Right's ideas about the role of the real wage in determining employment are both simple and convenient. There has been a wide welcome for the view that people could solve their own problems by lowering their wages and pricing themselves into jobs. Some people, though, may feel uneasy about a lack of consistency. The therapeutic effects of wage reductions are more canvassed for hospital cleaners than for professionals or for financial specialists.

There have in fact already been reductions in the real wages of unskilled manual workers since 1979. From 1979 to 1984 the earnings of non-manual workers rose by 88 per cent while those of manual workers rose by 65 per cent and of unskilled labourers by 60 per cent. Over the period prices rose by 69 per cent. In short, the rise in the real wage level during the recession was entirely due to rising pay at the top.

Across the span of the wage structure there have been striking differences in fortune. In 1979 earnings at the top decile for non-manual workers were three times those of the lowest paid labourers; by 1984 the ratio was 4.2. For finance and tax specialists the ratio of the highest pay to the lowest paid in the economy rose from 4.0 to 7.4. For medical practitioners from 5.0 to 7.2, and even university academic staff have shared modestly in the growth of inequality.

Yet unemployment is still rising especially for those who have private level which look for a more useful explanation of the labour market.

The New Right often seems to talk as if there was a simple answer: make any group of workers can influence by holding down their pay. They also think that such restraint would lead to an increase in the demand for that kind of labour. In effect, they argue that there is one labour market with one set of incentives operating through it.

The evidence, though, suggests that the labour market is divided between three main areas with different wage levels, different balances between demand and supply and different scope for substitution. These three areas could be called the "international corporate", the "middle economy" and the "labour surplus".

The international corporate or mid-Atlantic level is made up of the labour markets in the financial and executive world. Just as the foreign exchange product has become more international so has the labour market associated with it. Levels of pay reflect those found on Manhattan and are difficult to relate to British pay structures. This area of the economy has a dynamic of its own: it can grow from

change in the international economy.

This international corporate world has close connections with the plutocracy. The lines between income and wealth are as blurred as talented accountants can make them. The plutocracy is distinguished by great wealth and by the search for security across international frontiers. The plutocrat will be investing in Harrods rather than in information technology. The economic prospects and incentives operating here are special above all because immediate labour costs are far less important than the hope of capital gains.

In the middle or mid-British section of the economy the force of competition is very important. This is where employees work in corporations and where they could be private or public, and which trade in the shifting demands of national and international markets. In this middle economy entrepreneurs, real wages, new and promising products will attract new entrants who spoil other people's rates of return.

In this middle part of the economy enterprises have workforces with settled wage structures and are very concerned about their short-term labour costs. In mid-Britain, labour markets are roughly

real wages always seem to relate to the labour surplus where they are least relevant. In the middle economy problems of pay levels cannot be avoided, but cannot be resolved through an appeal to market forces. Workers gain scarcity value through on the job training as well as through qualifications.

In the depths of recession the pressure of competition in the product market may set some limit to their power. But at other times there will be strong pressure towards higher real wages and real consumption. Higher real wages in the middle economy will, of course, reduce labour using investment, and will create even more difficulty for people in the labour surplus.

There is a deep conflict between the claims of higher real income in the present and the long-term prospect for economic development. There may be a general long-term interest in that various entities called the British economy — but in the short-term particular groups have a much greater interest in increasing their own real income.

The operation of markets balanced in the way that they are in the middle economy leads to changes which prevent the development of the market economy as a whole. New Right's emphasis on huge prizes for winners and losses for the rest will heighten and intensify the very process of self-destructive polarisation which it shores.

The surface inconsistencies are clear enough. On the one hand those in the international corporate area seem to be exempt from the iron law of real wages. They can take almost any level of salary or combination of reward without it would seem, affecting the stability of the wage structure. In the middle there is the broad band where corporate St Georges fight the union dragons. At the bottom there are people who should lower their supply prices as far as is needed to price themselves into jobs.

Against this must be set the concept of the affordable wage level, consistent with economic development. It is not just the real income of the lowest paid which affects prospects for job creation but real incomes at all points in the wage structure. The central issue is how to persuade powerful groups to hold back on claims for real income that they have the power to enforce. It is a very big problem to which socialists have always had their utopian answers.

In a sense the New Right has a similarly ideological and utopian approach in its implication that the extent of wage cuts by the lowest paid is the critical variable affecting the economy as a whole.

The New Right welcomes increasing inequality: but increasing inequality means higher real income and higher consumption for more powerful groups. The concept of an affordable wage structure carries a presumption against great inequalities in the growth rate of real income and in favour of greater equality than is implied by the New Right's view of incentives.

All the burden of real wage adjustment cannot sensibly be put on the losers in the economic process.

Nick Bosanquet is senior research fellow, University of York.

Chipping away at Acorn

THE CURRENT concern about Acorn Computers, basically a symptom of the mad dog world we live in — does also indicate the complexities of the essential government involvement in nurturing new industry.

Acorn's growth at Cambridge, from a start-up at the beginning of 1978 with a few hundred pounds to a multi-million company with a 250 million turnover last year, has its roots in Whitehall. Winner-picking, but winner-picking in which the inevitable conflict between the public interest and commercial pressures was not considered.

In 1981, Acorn won the computer contract for a novel piece of BBC enterprise: to link sales of a home computer to a TV series on computer literacy. At the same time the Department of Industry was debating which microcomputer to endorse for the subsidised programme to put at least one computer in every school.

Thus the Establishment seal of approval went to the BBC-Acorn machine. Most of the established computer manufacturers had been dropping out around two years. The obvious conclusion is that Acorn has seen commercial logic in the appeal of the BBC-Acorn micro to parents debating what computer to buy for their children. It's the machine their children (rightly) use at school, so it's the logical buy for the home too.

Yesterday Mr Curry acknowledged that argument. He said that a price cut on the BBC-Acorn was not "commercially appropriate". There was a mixture, he said, between commercial and philanthropic considerations.

For "philanthropic" read "national interest". A cheaper BBC-Acorn might have enabled thousands more children from low-income

Chipping away at Acorn

homes to dabble in the crucial skills of computing. In a competitive world one cannot logically blame Acorn: one can blame the government for not putting such conditions on the deal.

The other side of the Acorn argument is the money-raising one. The founders chose the share-issue route on the unlisted securities market to raise new capital in 1983. Therefore they are now subject to the irrational volatility of the share market — obsessed with short-term considerations and ultra-sensitive to the rumour exchange.

The only logical element in the recent fall in Acorn's share price is the collapse of the American marketing venture, a difficult market for any small new British company to enter.

True, the assured schools market is no more now that

the government scheme has ended. But the real educational market based on the merits of the Acorn machines, are still there. True, the cheap home computer business is presumably over, but Acorn was never really in that game, anyway.

Chris Curry's comments yesterday, though containing no element of mea culpa, held an essential truth: "It is a curious and perverse trait of the British to build something up and then immediately to crumble it down; to minimise our successes while magnifying our competitors' achievements."

That "curious trait" is not a trait of the British people, who have invested in more home computers (and British computers) than any other nation. But it is a trait of fickle financial markets everywhere — even more in the US than in the UK, and any company that decides to go public has to learn to live with it.

Peter Large

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Chief Assistant (Allocations)
Grade PO1A £10,242 to £11,052 p.a. plus £877 (London Weighting and supplements).
Head recruitment: Previous applicants need not reapply as they will be considered.
Brent's Allocations Section is undergoing constructive change, including restructuring and increasing of establishment. Revision of pointing and allocation systems will follow. We need a well organised, highly motivated leader of this expanding team in order to confront and resolve our housing crisis. Applications from black and other ethnic minority applicants will be especially welcome.
Ring Peter O'Callaghan (Assistant Director) on 902-3304 for further information.
Application forms and job description from the Personnel Division, Room 10, Town Hall Avenue, Kings Drive, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6BN (returnable by 12 February, telephone 01-903 0371 (24 hours Amazon service). Reference number: H252 must be quoted.

London Borough of BRENT
Brent is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Job offers welcome

ST ANSELME'S COMMUNITY PROJECT
123 Norwood Road, Southall, Middlesex
requires
ONE ASSISTANT OFFICER
(or 2 PART-TIME)
Non-residential. Salary scale Local Authority 2/3
We require an energetic and flexible person with the ability to motivate and support 8 homeless young men aged between 16 and 25 within a hostel setting. Relevant experience as advantageous as formal qualifications.
Applications welcome from ethnic minorities, women and disabled persons. A 39 hour week is worked plus rostered sleep-in duties for which the relevant allowance is paid.
Application forms and job description from
Mr F Byrne, Officer in Charge, on 01-574 1956.
Closing date 6th February 1985.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF ST. NICHOLAS
This Voluntary Child Care Organisation with strong links with the Anglican Church in Hastings requires a
DIRECTOR
to be responsible to the Board of Management for:
(a) supervision of residential care in three houses for children and young people, a hostel for teenagers and a bed-sitter unit,
(b) the local development and expansion of the F.S.N.'s residential and community work, and
(c) the administration of the Board's business including personnel and financial matters and liaison with L.A.S.S.D. and D.H.S.S.
Preference given to a practising Christian sympathetic to Catholic principles with experience / professional qualifications in social work or closely allied discipline; a mature person prepared to make a commitment of service.
Salary — N.J.C. Scale range P.O.: supernumerary: assistance with moving expenses.
For full details, application forms etc. contact the Administrative Secretary, FSN, 25 Stockleigh Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN38 0JP. Phone Hastings (0424) 423683.
Closing date for applications 15th February 1985.

COURSES
University of Bristol
School for Advanced Urban Studies
MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY STUDIES
The course is part-time only and study extends over two years. It is aimed at people currently working in central and local government, the NHS and other public sector agencies. The course comprises a core course in policy analysis; a long essay based on special subject work from a list of policy options, including Employment, Housing, Health and Social Services, and a project. Attendance is for 1½ days per fortnight, and four one-week residential blocks in the two years.
Further details can be obtained from: Hetty Metcalfe, School for Advanced Urban Studies, Rodney Lodge, Grange Road, Bristol, BS8 4EA. Tel: (0272) 75117.

WEST MIDLAND VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION REQUIRES EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
To develop employment opportunities for Vietnamese Community in the West Midlands, with emphasis on establishing Training Schemes, Co-operatives and small businesses. Applicants should have proven administrative and communication skills, and the maturity to effectively liaise with potential employers and statutory bodies. A background in industry, commerce or self employment is desirable.
Salary £2985 - £5154.
Salary and application form from: Mr Thanh Dai Au on 021-554 5685 or 021-778 5514 after 5pm, or: Bob Snookes on 021-554 2228.
Closing date for applications: 6th February 1985.
West Midlands Vietnamese Community Association is an Equal Opportunities Employer and welcomes applications regardless of race, sex or disability.

AGE CONCERN INFORMATION OFFICER (LIBRARIAN)
AGE CONCERN ENGLAND
requires an Information Officer who will be responsible for the collection, storage and dissemination of information and materials to assist Age Concern in advice giving and policy formulation.
A key task will be to edit the Information Circular — a monthly newsletter for those who work with elderly people. The post holder will work in a busy department of part of a specialist team of Information Officers.
Applicants must be a graduate calibre with a qualification in Information Science. An understanding of the relevant statutory services will be advantageous.
Salary currently in range £7,082 — £8,435 plus 2630 London Weighting with increase pending from 1st April, 1985.
Contributory pension scheme, 4 weeks' annual leave, plus 5 recess days.
Further details from Carol Casey, Age Concern England, 60 Piccadilly Road, Weybridge, Surrey, GU8 3LL. Tel: 0440 5437.
Closing date: 11th February, 1985.

LONDON ENERGY AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK HACKNEY HEATING ADVICE PROJECT
Two people are needed to establish and run this new project within the London Borough of Hackney. Experience of community organising and personal initiative will be as important as an understanding of the heating problems faced by residents of this inner city area.
While the two workers will need to work closely together, each will have their own area of responsibility.
★ The INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY WORKER will be responsible for organising a borough-wide publicity campaign on heating issues and financial help available. Experience of welfare benefits would be a considerable advantage.
★ The TENANTS' ADVICE WORKER will work with tenants throughout the Hackney Housing District providing support and advice on housing problems and tenancy issues. An understanding of housing issues would be a considerable advantage.
Salary: £9,471 inclusive of London Weighting (foot of living award pending).
Appointments will initially be for one year.
Job description from Lindsey Wright on 01-580 1022.
Closing date for applications: 8th February, 1985.
The London Energy and Employment Network is funded by the Greater London Enterprise Board to create jobs by promoting energy efficiency in London. LEN is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from women and men who have the necessary attributes to do the job irrespective of ethnic origin, sexual orientation or disability.

COURSES IN WEST INDIAN SOCIOLOGY
The Centre for Caribbean Studies is offering three part-time courses in 1985. The courses are designed to assist Social Workers, Teachers, Probation Officers, Magistrates, indeed any professionals whose work brings them into contact with this particular minority group and about whom decisions must be made. The courses have been arranged in direct response to inquiries from such professionals who are acutely aware of the lack of knowledge in the area of work. The courses will commence on February 1, May 3, and October 4, 1985.
Also on offer are one-day seminars as well as lectures on issues directly affecting the West Indian population in the UK, eg. the effect of the education system on the West Indian child, Caribbean language issues, alternative to reconvicting children into care.
For further information please contact: Dr J. Benn, MA (Ed. Lond), Director-Centre for Caribbean Studies, 310, The Quadrant, Brighton, BN1 1QJ.
Tel: 01-279 0086.

YOUTH SERVICES
Northfield YMCA
YOUTH AND COMMUNITY WORKER
An experienced Youth and Community Worker required for this busy neighbourhood centre with particular emphasis on fitness and sport for all age groups.
There is a mixed residence for 50, sports hall, fitness studio, squash and badminton courts. The main responsibility is for the youth orientated programme, a maintenance, leadership and development. The worker is a community worker, not a counsellor. The worker is to be a role model, the Senior Worker in Charge.
Salary YMC Range 3 points 1-5.
Details and application form from: The General Secretary, CYM, 100, Northfield Road, Birmingham, B31 2PL.

More Public Appointments
appear on page 23

Prices surge amid keen US demand



John Barkshire

Share prices yesterday scaled new heights, jobbers taking their cue from the overnight strength of Wall Street. Prices were marked sharply higher at the outset as Wall Street celebrated the start of President Reagan's second term of office with its best performance of the year — climbing 34 points on the Dow Jones index. American investors were keen buyers of quality British

Harris Queensway's was a year ago." Band advanced another 17p to 500p in further response to the dividend and profits forecast. The account noted a £84 million rise in sales Monday.

Glits opened with falls to as the pound wobbled again in early currency trading. Easier sterling perked up. Several conventional stocks centred on gains of around 4p, but the shorts while longer-dated loans recovered overnight positions. Sentiment was helped late in the day by news of an exhaustion of the 21 per cent £200 million (£320 million paid) of which was issued over last week. Index-linked stocks still responding to Monday's sell-out, the 21 per cent £200 million rose by as much as 4 points.

Among UK blue chips to attract American buying were Metal Box at 418p, up 2p; BAT, 17p higher; and British American Blue Chip 520p, up 37p; Dunlop 3 down 2p; Sainsbury 31½, up 18p; Buzal 500p, up 17p; 823p, up 39p; Stylo 174p, up 6p; Gus A 634p, up 27p; Christies 505p, up 19p; ACD

Export strength for Stone

KUNICK Leisure Group, the headedly-based organisation being built up by Sir Fred Postin (right) and the Hull City Football Club chairman, Mr Don Robinson, has comfortably beaten the profit forecast made at the time of the £10 million share placing last May.

The company, whose interests include the London Dungeon and a water theme park in Scarborough, yesterday reported a pre-tax surplus of £200,000 for the 12 months trading to end September on turnover of £3.1 million.

The result compares with the £307,000 profit recorded in the preceding 16-month period of £2,000 for £1.1 million ahead of the £500,000 predicted last spring when City investors eagerly snapped up new shares to enable the company to finance the Scarborough water park and a major entertainment complex being developed in York.

Sir Fred, who is hoping to secure a full listing for the company's shares before the end of the year, is forecasting a further "substantial in-

group came through 1984 in buoyant style.

On turnover some \$1.3 million higher at \$10.62 million, pre-tax profit for the 12 months to September soared to \$504,000 from just \$35,000 in 1983 and the loss of almost \$400,000 recorded in 1982.

The group still has some way to go until profits are back at the record \$914,000 achieved in 1979. But further progress is expected in the current trading period when results will be helped by a first-time contribution from the Old Swan Hotel, currently under construction.

"The outlook for the industry and the group is good, especially with the favourable percentage rate," Lady Guinness, the group's chairman, said yesterday. "We shall endeavour to maximise the benefits arising from this situation and look forward with confidence to another year of progress."

The process of upgrading the quality of the hotel portfolio produced a revaluation surplus of some £3 million during 1994 and is to be continued in 1995 with the resignation and refurbishment of another of the group's London properties.

[illegible]

raised its turnover in the first six months by 44 per cent and profit before tax by more than 42 per cent.

Group turnover came out at £10.04 million compared with £6.95 million in the previous year. Pre-tax profits rose to £559,000 from £399,000. Interim dividend was raised to 1.4p a share from 1.1p and earnings per share have gone up to 10.44p from 6.4p.

Chairman Jack Mackenzie says that the half year figures have borne out the comments he made at the annual meeting that management accounts for the first four months were ahead of both budget and actual figures for the corresponding period of the previous year.

Mr Mackenzie said that prospects for SEET — which is a major producer of tarans as well as Harris Tweed and also makes and distributes woolen products — for the year as a whole continue to be encouraging.

The half year figures continue the trend established in the previous year when turnover rose 47 per cent and pre-tax profits by 65 per cent.

Lincoft Kilgour, the cloth-merchandising, bespoke tailoring and investment group, cut a fine figure yesterday with pre-tax profits up by 65 per cent and dividends by more than 80 per cent.

Macarthy's consolidates

importantly, however, there was much less discounting pressure on customers. Even though NHS payments remained unchanged until recent small increases, profitability rose strongly in the main distribution business.

The pre-tax surplus improved to £2,115,000, from £1,880,000. In wholesaling, where all except 10 per cent of NHS supply, profit was up by

Hampson Industries, the broadly based aero- and general engineering group with stakes in industrial cleaning, pressed ahead again in the first half of the year to March 31, though performance again a little patchy. Aluminium refining remains a strong helping to preserve margins at last year's much improved level. The trend in the

Turnover advanced to \$9.3 million from \$9.14 million, after the exceptionally strong previous rebound. This was still enough to take profit to nearly 18 per cent at \$483,000, against \$409,000.

The interim dividend being kept at 0.3p net a share on the capital enlarged by 10 per cent scrip issue.

**Edited by
Tony May**

[illegible]

ON		OFF	
Asahi Print	56	Printed Pro	360
BTC-Swiss	375	Star Line	812
Bristol	32	Strive Exp.	1132
Bruckner	210	Can & Cat	300
Burbank	210	Control Set	300
Cherford	210	Cherford Field	430
Chrysler	210	Cherford	430
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Swedish	182 +1	Swedish	475 -1	Canadian	239
British (P) ..	220	Bank Com	420	London	2761

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

TOURIST RATES—BANK SELLS

Austria	24.60	Greece	1.54	Portugal	188
Belgian	79.50	Ireland	1.10	Spain	194
Canada	71.48	Italy	1.00	Sweden	204
Denmark	12.85	Malta	0.985	Switzerland ..	2.96
France	10.77	Netherlands ..	1.00	USA	2.00
Germany	3.51	Norway	10.23	Yugoslavia	255

STERLING RATES

Cable	100.00	Bank	100.00
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Belgium	71.65-71.40	71.50 to 71.25 <i>etc etc</i>
Canada	1.4865-1.4896	1.4865 to 1.4885 <i>premium</i>
Denmark	12.71-12.72	0.36 to 0.35c <i>premium</i>
France	10.98-10.91	12.72-12.74
Germany	3.58-3.57	10.90-10.93
Greece	1462.97-146.34	3.565-3.569
Hong Kong	8.77-8.78	1463.10-147.02
Ireland	1.1455-1.1465	8.77-8.78
Italy	2.187-2.190	1.1470-1.1480
Japan	285.24-285.79	2.188-2.196
Netherlands	4.81-4.82	2.09-2.05
Norway	16.76-16.75	4.82-4.83
Portugal	193.24-194.63	16.75-16.73
Spain	196.78-197.27	193.24-194.78
		196.29-197.33
		1.25 to 1.125c <i>etc etc</i>
		1.35 to 1.25c <i>premium</i>
		0.36 to 0.35c <i>premium</i>
		0.625 <i>etc etc</i> to 0.375 <i>etc</i>
		2c to 1.25c <i>premium</i>
		2.25 to 2 p/c <i>premium</i>
		3 to 6 five <i>etc etc</i>
		2.575c to 2.125c <i>premium</i>
		0.50 <i>etc etc</i> to 0.25 <i>etc etc</i>
		205 to 195 <i>etc etc</i> <i>etc etc</i>

Dollar cross rates against: Swiss franc 2.66; French franc 9.49; DM 3.16; yen 235.90

INTEREST RATES

UK BIGH STREET %	
Bank deposit rate: 8.5-9	Building society mortgage: 12.5-13
Bank base rate: 10	Building society deposit: 7.75
Bank overdraft: 15-17	Plastic house rate: 10

UK MONEY MARKETS %				
Treasury bill	7 day	1 month	3 months	6 months
91 day bills		11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
Interbank rate	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	11 1/2
Discount Market				

INTERNATIONAL MONEY MARKETS

Caradella	1 month	3 months	6 months
Swiss	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
Swiss Fr. R	10 1/2	10 1/2	11 1/2
Swiss SW fr	9 1/2	9 1/2	9 1/2

US INTEREST RATES: Federal funds 5 1/2

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NUM reform plan dropped to calm rebels

By Keith Harper,
Labour Editor

Mr Arthur Scargill last night moved to head off breakaway elements within the National Union of Mineworkers by conceding that proposed changes to the composition of the executive were too far reaching and could continue divisions within the union.

The president of the NUM has sent a revised paper to members of the executive in advance of tomorrow's meeting in Sheffield. He now proposes that only areas with less than 1,000 members would be de-

prived of executive representation. This would remove Cumberland's representative.

Under the original plan areas like South Derbyshire and Leicestershire would have lost their executive seat.

Rightwing executive members last night welcomed the compromise but wondered whether it had come too late to prevent internal divisions from widening.

Mr Scargill is expected to present his plan to the South Derbyshire executive at a meeting today in an attempt to heal the rift between the national union and the area.

South Derbyshire's area council has already voted unanimously to follow their colleagues in Nottinghamshire and introduce rule changes decreasing the power of the union's national executive over their affairs.

Leaders of the NUM last night however saw the biggest problem for tomorrow's executive as how talks could be resumed with the National Coal Board in the face of a return-to-work rate which if it

is maintained would have half the country's miners back at work some time next month.

Belying the Government's tough attitude of the past two days the board yesterday adopted a more reasonable attitude.

For the first time, it said that it would be prepared to talk about the cost of production at uneconomic pits, an indication that peace feelers have not been withdrawn completely.

Mr Peter Walker, the Energy Secretary, yesterday met Welsh churchmen to discuss their idea for a moratorium on

pit closures while an independent review was carried out into the requirements of coal as part of a future energy policy.

Mr Walker listened to their plan, which has also gathered support from within the industry, but he made no commitment.

Mr Michael Eaton, the board's chief spokesman, last night called on the NUM to think again about the possibilities of a realistic settlement.

He said that after 175 hours of negotiations, the union had refused to move from its demand that "every uneconomic

pit should be kept open until the last piece of coal had been exhausted."

Mr Eaton said that the board wanted to achieve a settlement, but it did not want another round of talks in which the union persisted with an impossible demand which would inevitably lead to failure.

TUC leaders admitted that there is little they can do to bring both sides together after Mrs Thatcher's refusal to countenance talks unless Mr Scargill shows some shift on uneconomic pits.

Withdrawal of closures embargo PM tells Scargill

By Ian Aitken,
Political Editor

The Prime Minister yesterday endorsed the view that the Government and the coal board will require Mr Arthur Scargill to withdraw his demand that there should be no pit closures as the essential precondition for further negotiations aimed at ending the miners' strike.

It was made clear in Whitehall last night that she does not accept Mr Scargill's assurance that he wants further talks to take place without preconditions as a concession of any kind. On the contrary, senior Whitehall officials interpret Mr Scargill's remarks as a demand that the coal board should abrogate its right to manage the industry.

Most of Prime Minister's question time in the Commons was taken up with the coal strike, and the opposition leader, Mr Neil Kinnock, clashed three times with Mrs Thatcher on the issue. The Prime Minister refused to give an inch, challenging Mr Kinnock to advise the National Union of Mineworkers to accept the terms for a settlement outlined by Mrs Thatcher.

Mr Kinnock has been pushing the Prime Minister to test the sincerity of the miners' leadership by endorsing and encouraging a resumption of negotiations. He told her that "no conditions" meant what it said.

Mr Kinnock had earlier met a delegation from the Tribune group of left wing Labour MPs, and Mr Eric Heffer, one of those who joined Mr Tony Benn's bizarre demonstration about the pit strike in the Commons last week.

The demonstration was bitterly condemned by Mr Kinnock at the weekend. However, all the signs are that his meetings with Mr Heffer and the Tribune officers were amicable, and could possibly lead to an official opposition request for a Commons debate on the strike.

That was what last week's row was about, and Mr Kinnock vigorously claimed that a Commons debate would enable the Tory Party to pillory the opposition and make capital out of the split within the NUM.

However, the Labour left persisted yesterday in its effort to secure an emergency debate. Mr Kevin Barron, a miners MP, demanded a debate and claimed that it was clear that the Prime Minister did not want peace talks.

Mr Barron was turned down by the Speaker. Mr Tony Benn dissented from his judgment, recalling that there had been two emergency debates during the "winter of discontent" of 1978-79.

Mr Dennis Skinner, said that it seemed as if the Speaker was implying that there would eventually be a debate on the subject, provided the Labour rebels were prepared to press their case.

Lawson to claw back 'high spending'

Continued from page one

by higher unemployment pushing up social security costs by £717 million and local government overspending £1,000 million, adding £695 million. Overseas and services, and defence are overshooting by £318 million and £217 million.

Mr Rees conceded that there were constant strains and pressures for more spending and pinpointed the main dangers to his plans as social security, public sector pay increases and local authorities.

Though there are overruns in the form of higher-than-expected tax revenue this year, Mr Rees said that the Chancellor approached the prospect of tax cuts in the budget with caution.

The white paper says that the public spending plans are an integral part of the Government's Medium Term Financial Strategy, designed to bring down inflation, provide a firm basis for growth and a continuing reduction in the burden of direct taxation.

The real cuts in programmes are likely to imply further redundancies for teachers as spending falls, and a drop in the number of pupils, higher prescription charges, and a drop in publicly-funded construction and jobs. The unemployment level is assumed, rather optimistically, in the view of private forecasters, to stay at around the present level of 6.5 million adults (excluding Northern Ireland), up 150,000 on a year ago.

The Building Employers' Confederation said the white paper pointed to a 5 per cent drop in 1983-84, compared with this year, in capital spending on construction work, with the sharpest falls in improvement grants, environmental services and spending by the utilities.

This means a reduction in workload of some 2500 million which could lead to a further 60,000 job losses in construction and related industries, a spokesman added.

The TUC General Secretary, Mr Norman Willis, said that the proposals "show a worrying level of complacency about the effects which the Government's policies are having on the country."

He added: "They are engaged in a book-keeping exercise while the economy is sinking around us."

The proposals ignored calls from all sides of industry for action to repair the country's decaying infrastructure, he said.

Mr Aitken writes: The Chancellor's public spending plans were interpreted yesterday as a two-pronged attack on the substantial number of Conservative as well as opposition MPs who have been demanding a significant increase in Government investment in the public sector infrastructure like sewers, drainage and roads.

The white paper was widely condemned by Labour and Alliance spokesmen. But it was the "wets" on the Tory benches who reacted with the strongest indignation.

Mr James Lester, a former employment minister, protested vigorously against the proposals, claiming that the Government was prepared to contemplate an increase in unemployment in the coming year or at least no reduction.

Mr Roy Hattersley, deputy leader of the Labour Party, underlined the same point, declaring that the Treasury had made it clear that the Government had nothing to offer to the unemployed apart from its condolences.

Trusted civil servant gets six months for corruption

Gaol for MoD man who took newspaper cash

By Paul Keel

A former senior civil servant with the defence ministry, described by his barrister as an utterly ruined man, was gaol for six months at Bristol Crown Court yesterday after being found guilty of selling confidential information to the Observer newspaper.

Raymond John Williams, aged 39, a senior executive officer with the ministry in Bath until his resignation in November 1982, was convicted by the jury on two charges of corruptly accepting a total of £1500 for information which the Observer published that year.

Sentencing him, Mr Justice Talbot, said that the law must step in when an employee corruptly betrays his obligations. The trial, he said, had not been concerned with information given by a civil servant in defiance of the Official Secrets Act, which would have been a much more serious matter.

"It is a matter of corruption, in my view all the more serious because you were a trusted civil servant employed by a department of state which is so important and vital to this country," Mr Justice Talbot said.

The judge said he bore in mind all that Williams's counsel had said on his behalf and the consequence which the charges carried for him.

A spokesman for the Attorney General's Office said last night that the Observer had been informed by the Director of Public Prosecutions that a decision in principle to prosecute the newspaper had been taken. But he went on: "They have also been told that if any fresh evidence had arisen during the course of the trial, then the decision would be reviewed in the light of that evidence."

The editor of the Observer, Mr Donald Treford, in a statement published on page 2, says



Raymond Williams — 'a ruined man'

Post Office to install cash dispensers

By Margaret Dibley,
Money Editor

The Post Office moves into a new phase of its development with the installation of outside cash dispensers from March. The first will be at Whitechapel post office in Liverpool and another 50 around the country will be working by midsummer.

The machines will be operated by National Girobank as part of a shared network with other banks and building societies under the umbrella name Link. The machines will be serviced by post office staff.

From September the plastic cards will be usable in cash machines at 21 other financial institutions, including Abbey National Building Society, the Co-op Bank, American Express, and the Nationwide, Town and Country and Yorkshire building societies. Others will join later, even possibly the rival building society shared network, BFT, which starts in September.

Ponting case protest forces hint of Heseltine hand in secrecy

Continued from page one

Steel, Sir Michael responded when challenged by Labour MPs, including his shadow, Mr John Morris, QC.

Sir Michael said that the Director of Public Prosecutions had asked him at the end of last week for permission to vet the jury.

He said that the defence had applied for a copy of the document prepared by Mr Ponting, setting out the events leading up to the sinking of the Belgrano during the Falklands conflict.

"It was recognised that certain parts of the document might have defence implications and they were prepared to accept a bawdier version," he added. "Such a version would be extremely misleading and I sought permission for ministers to use the whole document but in camera."

Mr Brian Raymond, Mr Ponting's solicitor, challenged this explanation last night. "Not for the first time," he said, "the Attorney-General has made a misleading comment about Mr Ponting's case."

Sir Michael, he said, had left out one important fact: that it was the prosecution which had now decided to use the document — called the Crown Jewels in the Ministry of Defence — as part of its case. It had decided to do so five months after Mr Ponting was charged and just 10 days before the trial was due to start. The defence has always wanted the full truth of this matter to come out in open court," Mr Raymond said.

Both Mr Steel and Labour MPs — angry because Sir Michael was speaking on a point of order and could not be questioned — were questioning last night precisely what role Mr Heseltine took and why he argued that the whole of the document should be produced as evidence.

About 50 MPs had by last night signed a Commons motion tabled by Mrs Chris Smith, Labour MP for Islington South. — Mr Ponting's constituency — expressing deep concern about the use of jury-vetting in cases where no issue of genuine national security was at stake.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Thomas Hetherington, issued a statement yesterday saying that, in accordance with the Attorney-General's guidelines on jury checks, the director obtained Sir Michael's authority before asking that the checks be undertaken.

"This was solely on the grounds that the director considers that the evidence involves national security and that part of it is likely to be heard in camera," he said. The DPP would provide the defence lawyers with jury information to the prosecution. The vetting process is being carried out by the special branch.

Continued from page one

while a larger, long wall face is in a state of disrepair. Mr Tubby says three units should be recovered, but two have been abandoned at sea. "Industrial vandals," he says, "I cannot understand how men can stay out for so long and not realise what is happening to their place of work. It will take us several months to get back to normal."

Eddie Hindmarsh, the district production manager, believes some machinery, badly corroded, will take months to repair while condensation has damaged electrical switchgear.

Nevertheless, he adds that he is producing 2,000 tonnes daily — a quarter of the pre-strike output — and he can see profitability once again in the not-too-distant future.

Regrets as strike pit restarts

Repair while condensation has damaged electrical switchgear.

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